



NEWBURGH,

**Parks, Recreation, and Open
Space Master Plan Update**

2013-2017



INDIANA

2013-2017 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

december 6, 2012

town of newburgh, indiana

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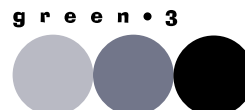
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Plan Summary

section one

Contents:

- Purpose of the Plan
- Planning Methodology
- Mission Statement
- Summary of Goals & Objectives
- Summary of Vision Initiatives

purpose of the plan

The Newburgh Parks Board is the primary provider of parks, recreation, and open space needs for residents of the Town of Newburgh and the surrounding area. To do this effectively, the Parks Board has relied for the past decade on a series of master plans that achieve the following goals:

- Review progress and the current state of Newburgh parks, recreation, and open space resources.
- Seek public input to determine how users view and use Newburgh parks currently, and discover what improvements are desired or needed.
- Determine and/or refresh a vision for Newburgh Parks.
- Guide the Parks Board in the specific determination, prioritization, and execution of goals for the next five years.
- Maintain an up-to-date and defensible master plan to strengthen the Parks Board's ability to promote Parks goals and obtain grant funding.

planning methodology

The methodology used to create this plan conforms to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Resources 2008 park master plan guidelines. The planning methodology included the following stages:

1. Inventory & Analysis - A plan study area was defined and a wide variety of sources were reviewed including the most recent census data and existing state and local plans. An inventory of local recreational resources was performed.

2. Focus Groups - Local stakeholders were identified and invited to a series of two focus groups in which stakeholders and Parks Board members discussed park strengths and weaknesses and participated in a visioning exercise.

3. Recreational Demand Survey - Based on the results of the park inventory, the results of the focus groups, and discussions with the Parks Board and Town officials, a recreational demand survey was drafted. A statistically valid random sampling methodology and follow up methods were used to obtain a 60% response rate, a confidence interval of +/-10%, and a confidence level of 90%. The survey provided information on the park usage habits, needs and desires, and dreams of the park user base.

4. Evaluation - Public input and inventory information were compared to state and national standards in a needs analysis. All information gathered, including previous plan recommendations, was reviewed with the Parks Board to determine future priorities.

5. Vision Plan - A vision for the Newburgh Park System was developed that creates a framework for goals and priorities.

6. Action Plan - Specific and actionable goals were identified with potential strategies and sources of funding.

mission statement

The actions and decisions of the Parks Board are guided by the following mission statement:

The Newburgh Parks & Recreation Board strives to preserve, protect, and manage natural, historical, and recreational resources and facilities in order to offer leisure activities and programming in which all citizens can participate.

The Parks Board and Staff are dedicated to fiscal responsibility and efficiency through proper planning. The Board is committed to pursuing cooperation and partnerships with fellow departments, groups, and agencies in the community to achieve these philosophies.

In summary, the above mission statement has traditionally been interpreted as a mandate to improve the quality of life for Newburgh citizens. This mission statement serves as the primary policy declaration of the Parks Board, and therefore is also the basis of decision-making in this Master Plan.

summary of goals & objectives

Based on the Parks Board mission statement, this Master Plan seeks to advise and enable the Parks Board to achieve the following goals and objectives.

Space and Facilities - To assure sufficient space and facilities for the wide range of leisure opportunities expected by park users:

- Provide active and passive recreation.
- Ensure that the system is adaptable.
- Distribute park resources fairly throughout town.
- Acquire additional land and facilities as needed to meet the needs of the town's population.
- Justify proposed acquisitions with market data and planning.
- Evaluate actions by weighing benefits against costs and commitments in the long term.

Accessibility - To assure equal accessibility of park resources to citizens of both sexes and of all ages, races, beliefs, physical and mental ability levels, and social and economic positions:

- Evaluate demographic data for potential underserved user groups.
- Utilize public input methods to discover any publicly known underserved user groups.
- Actively attempt to provide park resources for any underserved user groups that are discovered.
- Continue to proactively evaluate and improve the accessibility of parks and programming for people with disabilities.

Fiscal Responsibility - To improve Parks Board financial resources in non-onerous ways and mitigate expenditures by acting responsibly and efficiently in both operations and capital improvements:

- Encourage philanthropic support.
- Take full advantage of grant opportunities.
- Evaluate fees regularly.
- Provide community need, community support, and cost/benefit analysis information to the Town Administrative and Legislative Authority for all budget requests.
- Regularly evaluate new revenue sources, such as a tax levy, monthly fees, or development impact fees.

Best Experience - To assure the best possible park experience:

- Continue to place maintenance, safety, and cleanliness as high-priority operational goals.
- Improve Parks Board ability to proactively refresh park resources.
- Improve and expand park programming.

Cooperation and Resource Sharing - To build cooperative relationships with public and private entities to improve the efficient use of resources/reduce costs and achieve improved citizen quality of life.

- Cooperate with other agencies and community providers to avoid resource duplication and compliment each other's efforts.
- Cooperate with other organizations to efficiently offer and promote programming.
- Increase volunteering and philanthropy.

Citizen Engagement - To increase citizen engagement, park utilization, and citizen input in park decision making:

- Continue to utilize the Town Newsletter to publicize park news and updates.
- Continue to make Parks Board meeting minutes available on the Town of Newburgh website.
- Utilize additional methods to improve communication of park news and programming to citizens.

summary of vision initiatives

The inputs of the public, stakeholders, and the Parks Board have been synthesized into the future Vision for the Newburgh Park System. The vision for the Newburgh Park System is that of a network of well-kept, beautiful parks that is woven into the community, and that connects the community with its greatest resource, the Ohio River. This vision includes four main themes:

- Park beautification and a high standard of maintenance
- Connectivity with the community and between parks
- Use of the parks to improve quality of life in the community
- Focus on enriching the connection between the community and the Ohio River.

Each form of input in the planning process revealed overwhelming use of and support for the Rivertown Trail. The entire community appears to share a vision for the completion of the planned westward expansion of the Trail to Angel Mounds.

Newburgh residents and stakeholders are very concerned about the condition of the Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool. A site master plan should be created for an overall renovation and possible expansion of this park. Implementation of this plan may need to occur piece by piece, but each piece should be developed with awareness of the end result.

An improved connection with the Ohio River was an important recurring theme in public/stakeholder input and is one of the key components of the park system vision. Working with downtown stakeholders, physical access facilities to the River should be improved and programs developed.

Newburgh's existing parks and connectivity form a rich recreation fabric. As Newburgh seeks to fill the recreation gap that exists in the northern areas of the planning area, it

should adopt a model of extending trails and greenways, connecting new parks to the existing park fabric.

There are a number of site specific improvements that presented themselves or were suggested to improve the current parks. These include a performance pavilion and site master plan at the Old Lock and Dam Park, additional development at Indian Hill Overlook Park, and landscaping at several parks.

There are other additions to the current park system that could improve the needs of Newburgh residents and visitors. A performance pavilion, dog park, and the creation of a Cypress Creek Nature Preserve are discussed in detail in the plan.

There are several operational improvements that bring Newburgh Parks service to the next level. These include initiatives for improved public communication, increased park programming, and a system for proactive park renewal. The practicality of these initiatives would rely on additional park staffing and a series of collaboration and fundraising initiatives.

Finally, it is recommended that the Parks Board address its appointment structure to ensure that the Parks Board maintains the manpower necessary to maintain and improve the Newburgh Park System.

Context of the Plan

section two

Contents:

- Planning Area
- Natural Landscape Features
- Historical Context and Features
- Man-Made Context and Features
- Cultural Events

planning area

The town of Newburgh is located on the Ohio River in the southwest corner of Warrick County, just east of Evansville (see Map 1). The town is part of the Evansville metropolitan area and is under the jurisdiction of the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation projects.

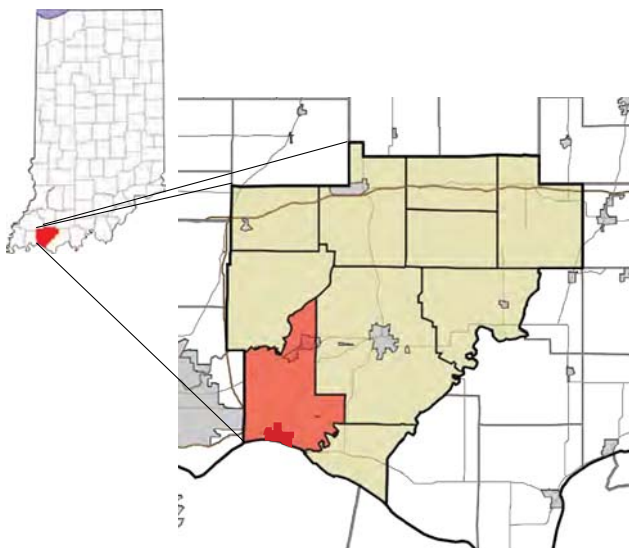
Outside of its towns, Warrick County typically has a more rural character. As is evident from observations of

aerial photography, however, the greater Newburgh and Boonville areas have experienced extensive suburbanization (see Map 2). This suburbanization has led to a need to draw the planning area boundaries far outside of the municipal limits of Newburgh, as this area better characterizes the active user base of Newburgh parks. This outlines one of the principal challenges of the Newburgh Park System: serving a user base of approximately 27,943 on a tax base of 3,325 (US Census 2010). This challenge will only intensify as local populations continue to grow, so a means of capturing Park System support from this larger population needs to be considered (see Section Six).

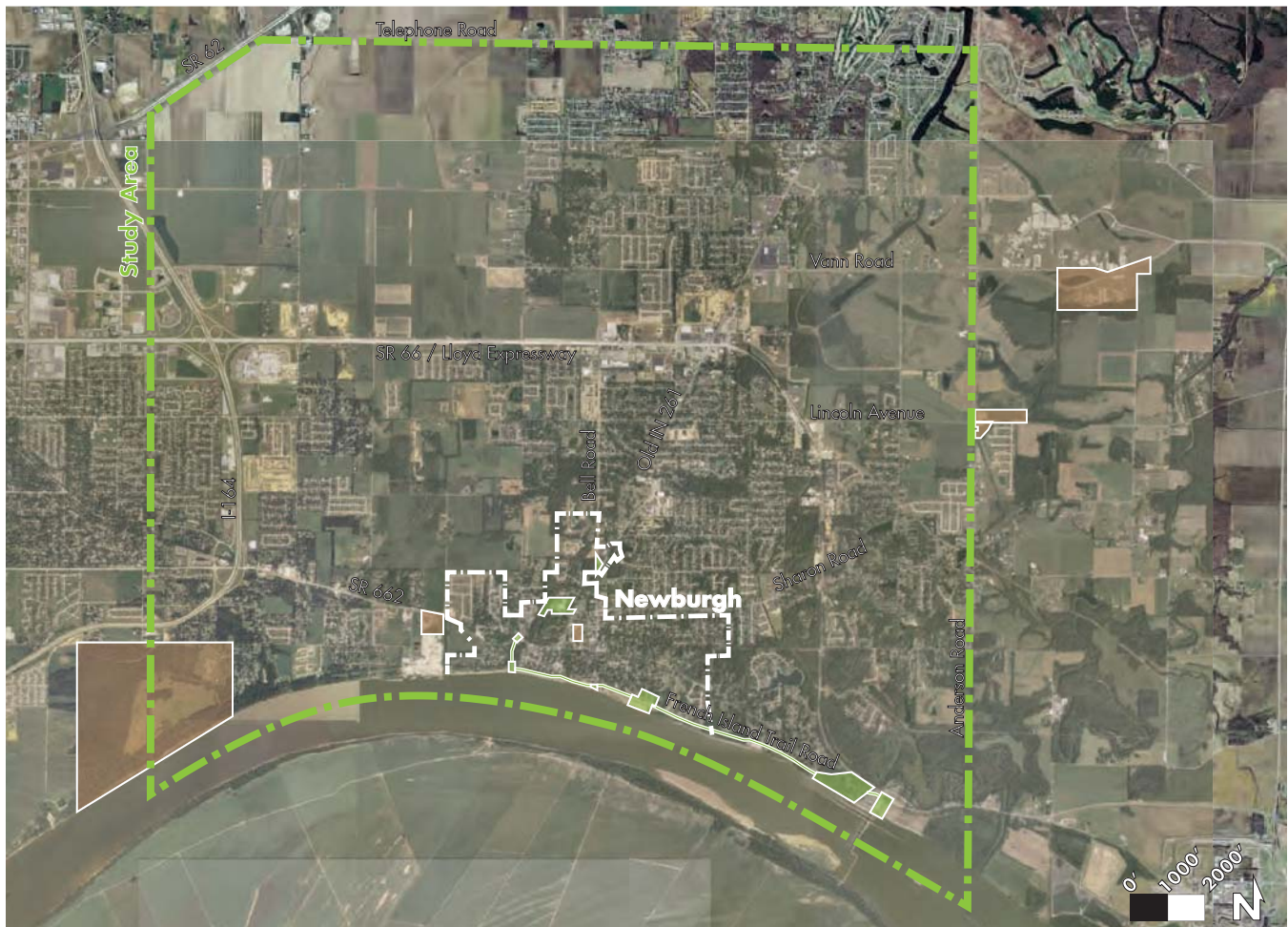
Boundaries - The planning area is roughly defined by the following boundaries: the Ohio River to the south, Telephone Road to the north, Anderson Road to the east, and Epworth Road to the west (see Map 2). These limits include the incorporated town along with suburbanized areas surrounding Newburgh. These limits reflect Town officials' observations of the existing user base.

natural landscape features

The Ohio River is the most significant natural landscape feature associated with the Town of Newburgh and the identified planning area. Newburgh is located



Map 1: Newburgh. Maps 2006, 2007 Public Domain. Newburgh is in Indiana, Warrick County, Ohio Township.



Map 2: Planning Area. Aerial 2005 Indiana Map. Planning area boundaries are: Ohio River, Telephone Road, Anderson Road, and Epworth Road.

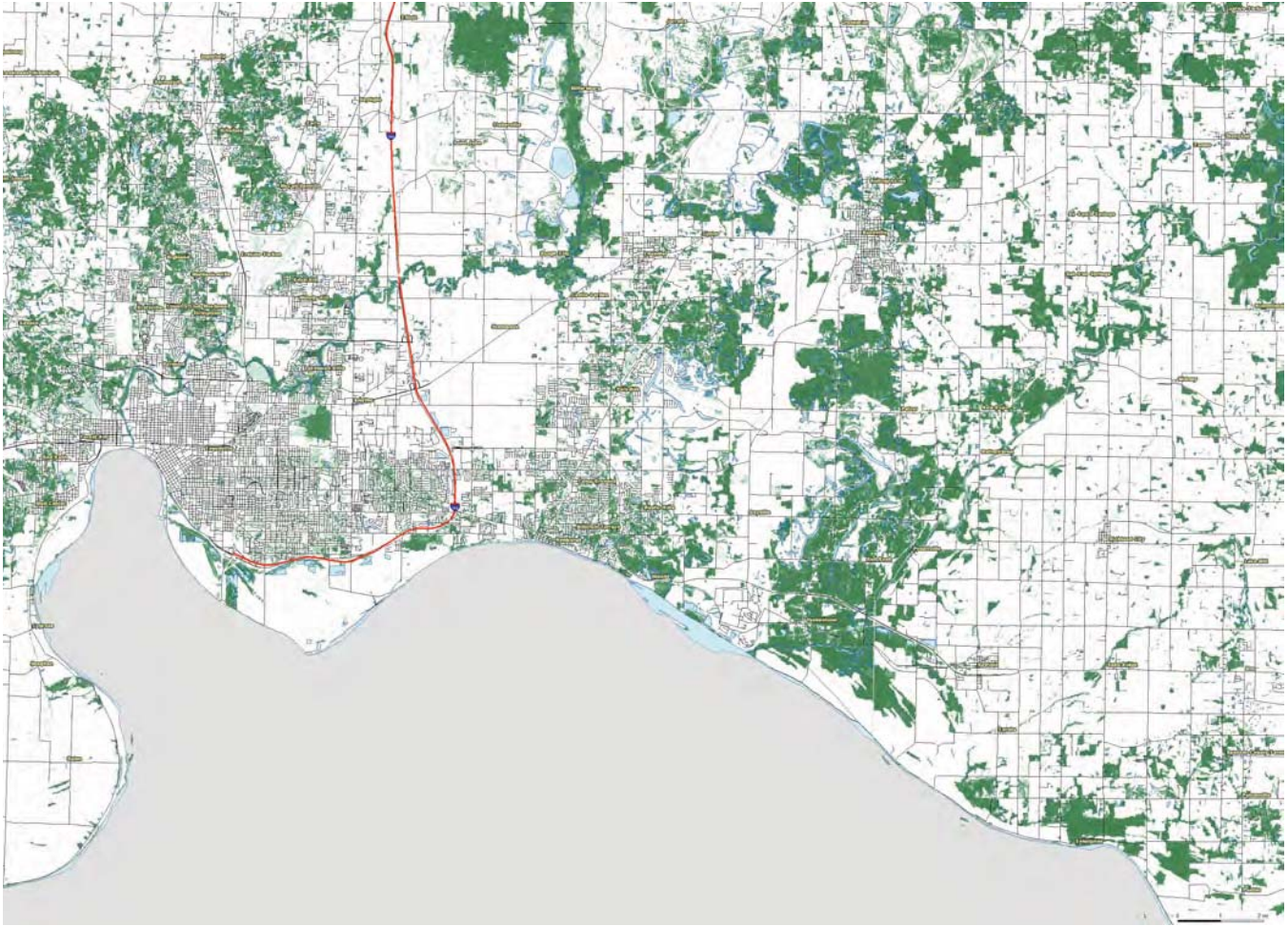
on the northern shore at mile 778, where the river is approximately 2000 feet wide. The town is built along the steep banks of the Ohio River. At the top of the banks there is a narrow, approximately two-lot deep shelf, and then there is another steep rise. From there, the elevation of the town gradually rises away from the river. The Ohio River caused the town to have an open design towards the river, and the views of and along the Ohio River are an important and character-defining feature of the town. The active commercial nature of the Ohio River arguably increases the interest of the view as tug-boat watching is a popular past time. Additionally, the Ohio River provides opportunities for fishing and boating.

Mining - Many of the original natural features of Newburgh and Warrick County have been altered by generations of mining. Underground coal mining was a big part of the culture of early settlers. Most of the agricultural land in and surrounding the area has been developed with housing and commercial development. Surviving shaft entrances and mining features would be

excellent candidates for preservation, interpretive park features, and/or programming.

Great Ravine - There are two other waterways of note in the Newburgh area. The first is the unnamed tributary that runs through the Great Ravine. The Great Ravine is a ravine that runs north and south just west of center of the town. From a development standpoint, the Great Ravine has the effect of providing a western edge to the town, as crossings and views through the Ravine are limited. From a natural standpoint, these natural limitations on development have allowed a lush wildlife corridor to survive, connecting northern sections of town to the Ohio River. These locations are ideal for nature-themed parks and programming.

Cypress Creek - The final waterway of note in the Newburgh area is the remnants of Cypress Creek to the far east of town. Cypress Beach was a natural beach below rock cliffs located near the mouth of Cypress Creek, but was destroyed by the construction of the Newburgh



Map 3: Regional Tree Cover. Data 2001 USGS. Map shows regional tree cover, which approximates likely wildlife corridors. Newburgh in center.

Locks and Dam at that location. Cypress Creek and its associated system of wetlands remains, however (see large mass of tree cover just east of Newburgh in Map 3). This may be an as-yet-unrealized source of natural beauty, as well as an ideal candidate for conservation efforts.

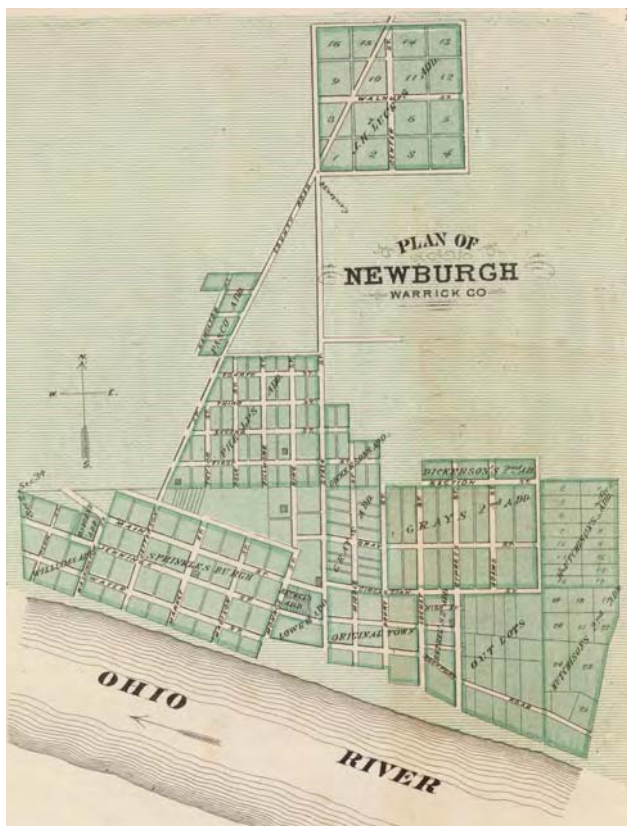
National Regions - Warrick County is within two of Indiana's natural regions: the Southern Bottomlands and Southwestern Lowlands. Oaks, ashes, and gumtrees are home to many species that exist nowhere else in the state, including pinkroot, and tassel-rue as wells as wildlife such as the prairie kingsnake and crayfish frog.

Soils - The topography in Warrick County includes fertile bottomlands and rolling pastures to hilly uplands with areas of deciduous forests. In terms of its soils, Warrick County has four major regions: Thick Loess Deposits (with Alford, Hosmer, and Iva soils), Discontinuous Loess over Weathered Sandstone and Shale (with Zanesville, Berks, Wellston, and Muskingum soils), Silty and Clayey Lucustrine Deposits (with McGary, Patton, Hoytville, and

Dubois soils), and a small area of Alluvial and Outwash Deposits (with Fox, Genesee, Warsaw, and Wheeling soils). The Town of Newburgh exhibits subtleties of all these described features.

Significant Nature Areas - There are no official significant natural areas or nature preserves located in the planning area or in Warrick County (IDNR, Division of Nature Preserves). However, in neighboring Pike and Vanderburgh Counties, there are significant natural areas, including the Wesselman Nature Preserve, Howell Wetlands, Angel Mounds State Historic Site and associated Muskegan Trail, and the Sugar Ridge Recreation Area.

Climate - Climate is somewhat moderate in the region, with fluctuations in the daily temperature influenced by the warm moist air masses from the south. Newburgh's position at the southern tip of the state allows for a USDA hardiness zone of 7a, whereas most of the state is in hardiness zones 5b-6b. Average daily (maximum)



Map 4: Newburgh c.1876. David Rumsey Map Collection 1876.

temperature is 89 degrees Fahrenheit in August, while the average daily minimum temperature is 24 degrees Fahrenheit in January. Rainfall averages 42 inches annually, but it is distributed more evenly across the year than in the northern parts of the state. Snowfall averages 13 inches annually, although it fluctuates from year to year.

historic context and features

As a town located along the Ohio River, Newburgh has an unusually long and rich history. Fifteenth- and sixteenth-century explorers and early settlers 'discovered' the area, but it was originally inhabited by the Shawnee Tribe. The Shawnee continued to have a presence near what is today Indian Hill Overlook Park into the nineteenth century, and the remains of Shawnee chieftains were discovered in that location in the early twentieth century.

Angel Mounds, c.1100 - Even in pre-historic times, before the Shawnee, the town's location made it a gathering point. Between c.1100-1450 AD, an agricultural community of Mississippian culture peoples traded with other chiefdoms and peoples along the Ohio River. The Angel Mounds, located just west of Newburgh,

are a remnant of this community. Angel Mounds State Historic Site became a National Historic Landmark in 1964.

John Sprinkle, 1803 - When American pioneers pushed westward into Indiana, the Ohio River valley was one of the first locations to be settled. Newburgh, which is the oldest town in Warrick County, attracted its first permanent white settler, John Sprinkle, in 1803. There is a historical marker describing this located at the Rivertown Trail's Downtown Plaza.

Sprinklesburg, 1818 - Sprinkle first named his home "Mount Pleasant," but then he changed the name to Sprinklesburg when he platted the area in 1818. The original plat of Sprinklesburg is the area from Monroe Street to Washington Street north to one block north of Posey Street.

Newburgh, 1837 - Abner Luce arrived in 1829 and founded Newburgh, directly east of Sprinklesburg. Later, in 1837, the plats for Sprinklesburg and Newburgh were merged to form one town, Newburgh. Some of the most visible and important land in today's downtown Newburgh was included in neither Luce's nor Sprinkle's plat, however, and was instead owned by Samuel Short. Short's strip occupied the block west of State Street to Sprinklesburg's eastern edge, and from the river north.

Economic Growth, c.1850 - Newburgh grew, and by 1850, had become the largest river port between Cincinnati and New Orleans. Agricultural products, tobacco, coal, and other goods passing through Newburgh significantly shaped the town's economy, and several churches, lodges, organizations, and schools were established. For a short period, Newburgh enjoyed prosperity as a center of industry centered on coal mining, having sunk the first underground mine shaft in Indiana in 1850. This spurred the development of roads, stage, and rail lines that, along with boat travel, connected Newburgh with its surrounding communities.

Civil War Era - One of the richest parts of Newburgh history has to do with the route of the Underground Railroad. Newburgh is thought to have been a stop between the mouth of the Little Pigeon River and Lake Michigan. On July 18, 1862, Newburgh also became the first town north of the Mason-Dixon line to be captured by the Confederates during the Civil War. Confederate officer (later General) Adam "Stovepipe" Johnson famously captured the Town of Newburgh with an outnumbered force through the clever use of surprise and deception. To the great advantage of the town, many of the structures

that feature in the history of this raid are still standing, including The Exchange Hotel.

Rise of Evansville, c.1880 - When the Wabash and Erie Canal and a railroad line were extended to Evansville, bypassing Newburgh in the 1880s, the result was economic decline for Newburgh and the establishment of Evansville as a regional hub for commerce. The turn of the century brought about a change in the focus of land use in Newburgh then, emphasizing residential land use rather than the commercial and industrial growth of the 19th century.

Old Lock and Dam, c.1920 - In the 1920s, Newburgh obtained an unusual distinction as the site of a lock and dam, Lock and Dam No. 47. This dam was built on the eastern edge of downtown, and is today the site of the Old Lock and Dam Park. This was one of a series of 53 dams that were built starting in 1885 between Pittsburgh and the Mississippi River in order to make commercial use of the Ohio River more reliable. At times, portions of the Ohio River were as low as 12 inches prior to the construction of the dams.

New Locks and Dam, c.1975 - In the 1950s, the US Army Corps of Engineers commenced a modernization project to further improve the commercial capability of the Ohio River, and in 1975 the Newburgh Locks and Dam were completed. These are located at the eastern edge of the greater Newburgh area where Cypress Creek empties into the Ohio River, and their construction destroyed Cypress Beach, a historical recreation spot for the town. Although Cypress Beach was destroyed, this project did result in the eventual addition of two new park properties to the Newburgh Park System. To build the Newburgh Locks and Dam, the Army Corps acquired Indian Hill and also built a large park adjacent to the Locks. The Town of Newburgh leased Indian Hill Overlook Park in 2005 and is currently negotiating a surplus of the property.

ALCOA, c.1950 - Also in the 1950s, the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) opened a few miles east of town. ALCOA has continued to be a major employer and has taken an active role in providing grants and assistance to the Newburgh Park System.

Today - The Town of Newburgh today is a recognized Indiana Main Street community. Downtown Newburgh is home to sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the Newburgh Historic Preservation District is made up of over forty (40) core properties and eleven (11) scattered properties.

man-made context & features

The planning area is served by a variety of state and local roadways. State Road 66 crosses through Ohio Township, to the north of Newburgh. This collector highway provides connectivity to the City of Evansville to the west and the City of Rockport to the east. State Roads 261 and 61 both provide connections from the planning area to Boonville, the Warrick County Seat.

Local Roads - State Road 662 parallels the Ohio River, and is now a town-controlled road. The Town of Newburgh assumed ownership and maintenance responsibility from INDOT due to the Town's desire to control heavy truck traffic through the historic district. This also allows the town to close the road for events. The route begins at the intersection of I-164 west of the Town limits and continues east to Ellerbusch Road, where it becomes a local roadway and continues in an eastward direction until it intersects with SR 66. Through the Town limits, the roadway is identified as Jennings Street and French Island Trail. Other significant local roadways include Water Street, State Street, Jefferson Street, and Bell Road.

Historic Downtown District - Newburgh has retained much of its compact, historic downtown along the Ohio River. The Historic Preservation District (see Map 5) has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and contains the original plats of Sprinklesburgh and Newburgh. The area boasts a wide variety of established businesses and has a reputation as a center for antique shops.

Although, or rather because, it is a developed commercial area, the Historic Downtown District serves as a recreational destination in and of itself. The Rivertown Trail connects it to other areas along the Ohio River and brings thousands of walkers and tourists. The nature of commerce in the Historic Downtown District is such that



Map 5: Historic Downtown District. Newburgh Action Plan 2011.

these merchants have a fiscal interest in recreational offerings and facilities that are connected to the downtown area. This relationship is reinforced by numerous cultural events utilizing the downtown and nearby park resources. This creates a strong case for town and citizen investment in downtown-area park resources.



Map 6: West End District. Newburgh Action Plan 2011.

West End District - The West End District (see Map 6) extends from Washington Street to Ellerbusch Road along old State Road 662/Main Street/Jennings Street and reflects a rural aesthetic with rolling topography and a winding roadway. The West End District transitions into the Historic Downtown at Jennings Street and Washington Street, just east of the Great Ravine. This district encompasses portions of the Rivertown Trail including the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead and the Ohio River Plaza.

Kight Lumber - Kight Lumber is a historical lumber yard with 1.5 acres of land and over 10,000 sf of building space. The 2011 Newburgh Downtown Action Plan noted that this site could be redeveloped as an art center/music venue. The planned phase 3 of the Rivertown Trail would bring the trail along this property.

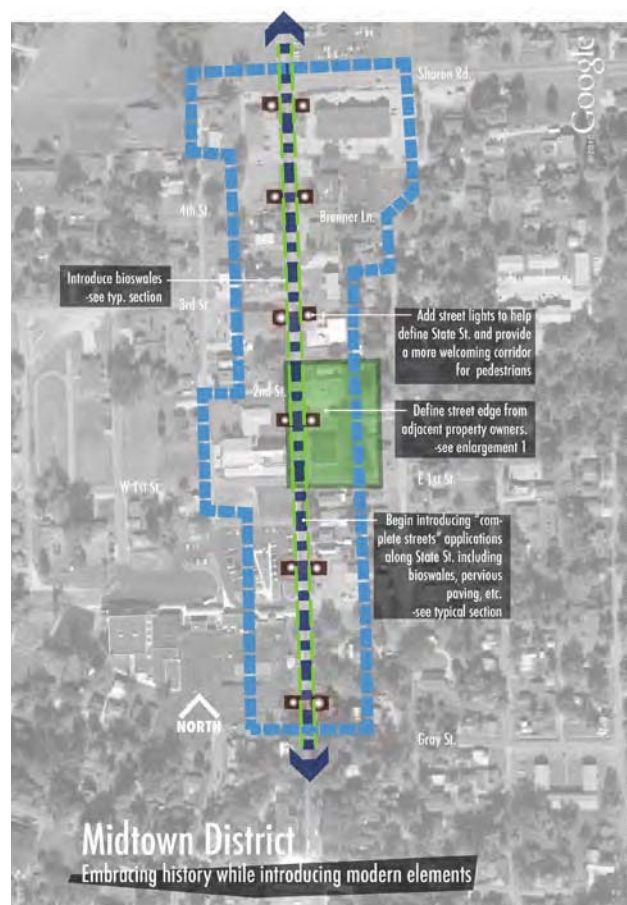
Midtown District - The Midtown District (see Map 7) has a suburban commercial character. It has boundaries following State Street from Gray Street to Sharon Road in the north and extends about one block to the east and west. Whereas businesses in the Historic Downtown District are more oriented to tourists, development in this district is oriented toward the local economy and serves the local population. The Newburgh Action Plan 2011 notes the need to reinforce district identity and amenities. Both of these goals could be assisted through the development of park resources in this district.

Locks and Dams - The US Department of Interior surplused the old Lock and Dam No. 47 site to the Town of Newburgh in 1978. All the original structures at the site are intact and have since been renovated by the town. They include two lockmaster cottages, the original control building, and other ancillary buildings used in the lock and dam operation. These form the basis of the Old Lock and Dam Park and the associated river access and rental facilities.

The new Newburgh Locks and Dam is a significant landmark in greater Newburgh. In addition to defining the character of the New Locks and Dam Park, the view of the Newburgh Locks and Dam is an important feature of Indian Hill Overlook Park and sections of the Rivertown Trail. The new Locks and Dam is also a popular fishing location.

Schools - Students from the planning area attend the following public and parochial schools:

- Newburgh Elementary School
- Sharon Elementary School
- Yankeetown Elementary School



Map 7: Midtown District. Newburgh Action Plan 2011.

- John H. Castle Elementary School
- Castle North Middle School
- Castle South Middle School
- Castle High School
- St. John the Baptist Catholic School

For the most part, school facilities are available for public use. Further coordination between the town and Warrick County Schools may reveal operational and resource-sharing efficiencies.

Private Recreational Features - The following private recreational facilities can be utilized by the Newburgh Park System user base as permitted by their operators. The operators of these facilities may be willing to collaborate with Newburgh Parks on programming:

- The New Locks and Dam Park (open to public): The New Locks and Dam Park is the eastern terminus of the Rivertown Trail. It is not operated or owned by the Newburgh Parks Board. This is within a useful distance of the Newburgh Park System user base, but it is farther than ideal for a neighborhood park. This is a large grassy field with playground equipment and many picnic tables and grills, as well as restrooms and informational kiosks explaining the function of the Newburgh Locks and Dam, which commands the viewshed of this park. There is an ample parking lot located here.
- Mulzer Fields (open to public): operated by Newburgh Junior Baseball, this is a baseball park with one age 11-12 field and one age 13-15 field, as well as batting cages, concessions, restrooms, and parking. It is located just to the west of the West End District and may be connected to the Rivertown Trail in the next extension.
- Vann Road Park Fields (open to public): operated by Newburgh Junior Baseball, this is a baseball park with six younger age fields, as well as batting cages, concession stands, restrooms, and parking. It also features a large playground. The park is located on Vann Road just west of Anderson Road (the eastern edge of the planning area).
- Victoria National Golf Club (members only): this is a world-class 418-acre golf course and club that hosts the PGA Tour United Leasing Championship, located northwest of the planning area.
- Quail Crossing Golf Course (open to public, for fee): Par-4 golf course located northwest of the planning area.
- Rolling Hills Country Club (members only): Par-4 golf course, tennis, and swimming located northwest of the planning area.
- Camp Brosend (Christian faith-based, for fee): Summer camp and retreat location in wooded area midway between IN 261 and SR 66. Important wooded area within developed area for ecological and recreational reasons.

Leased Recreational Features - The following parks are owned by the Town of Newburgh, but leased and not operated or maintained by the Town:

- Kiwanis Park: This park is located in a residential part of Newburgh at 1st Street and Polk Avenue and is leased by the Newburgh Kiwanis and Warrick County School Corporation. The park includes a Kiwanis building and a track. These are open to, and well-used by, the public.
- AMAX Fields: This park is located to the west of the planning area at Lincoln Avenue and Anderson Road. The park is leased by Pepsi Youth Soccer and Castle Youth Football. It includes 4 soccer fields and 1 football field with associated amenities. The football complex is fenced and only open to league participants; the soccer fields are open to the public.

Regional Recreational Features - The following parks are not affiliated with the Town of Newburgh, but are important regional recreational resources for the Newburgh Park System user base:

- Angel Mounds State Historic Site: Located on the Ohio River east of Newburgh, this historic site, museum, and forested trails operated by the IDNR. Angel Mounds is the planned destination for the Rivertown Trail.
- Scales Lake Park: Located in Boonville to the northwest, this regional park features camping, a beach, a pool, and a petting zoo. This is a Warrick County Park.

Other destinations available within a one hour driving distance include:

- The Evansville Park System including a zoo, indoor skating facility, nature preserves, and outdoor performance venues.
- Lincoln State Park in Spencer County.
- Burdette Park in Vanderburgh County.
- John James Audubon State Park in Kentucky.
- Ashumbala Nature Preserve in Kentucky.

cultural events

Newburgh capitalizes on its historic character and its location on the Ohio River to attract large crowds to several popular events. These events are an important part of the recreational offerings of Newburgh, and many of them rely on park resources:

Rivertown Trail 5k - Early May. Annual 5k event runs a track along the Rivertown Trail to raise money for continued Rivertown Trail upkeep and maintenance. Utilizes the Rivertown Trail, Indian Hill Overlook Park, and the Old Lock and Dam Park. Sponsored by a committee and the town.

Wine/Arts Fest - Mid-May. Annual 3-day event includes wine tasting, an art festival, food, and entertainment. Utilizes the Old Lock and Dam Park. Sponsored by Historic Newburgh, Inc.

July 4th Celebration - July 4th. Annual community picnic with entertainment, food, and fireworks. Utilizes the Old Lock and Dam Park. Sponsored by Historic Newburgh, Inc.

Fiddler Fest - Late August. Annual signature 3-day event features food, arts, and music. Utilizes the Old Lock and Dam Park. Sponsored by the Friends of Newburgh.

Twilight on the Trail - Early September. Annual event features family day with child/teen activities and music, and food, wine, beer, music, and a silent auction in the evening for adults. Utilizes the Rivertown Trail and the Old Lock and Dam Park. Sponsored by TOUCH, Inc. (Transportation, Other, Utilities, Child Care, and Housing; for cancer patients).

Sir Brit Car Show - Mid-September. Annual 2-day British car show. Utilizes the Old Lock and Dam Park. Sponsored by the Sir Brit Car Club.

Dogs N Suds Event - Late September. Annual 2-day event featuring pets, information and education booths, food, music, and a 5k for pets and pet owners. Utilizes the Rivertown Trail and the Old Lock and Dam Park. Sponsored by the Warrick County Humane Society.

Defining the Constituency and Its Needs

section three

Contents:

- Population
- Public Input
- Focus Groups
- Recreation Demand Survey
- Public Meeting

population

Newburgh, Indiana is a town of 3325 residents that reside in 1403 households, for an average household size of 2.32, which is a smaller average household size than is seen in Warrick County and in the rest of Indiana. The town has a stable and typical gender distribution of 48.2% male residents and 51.8% female residents. The overall rate of population growth from 2000 to 2010 was 2.37%. Nearby Evansville's population declined from 2010 to 2000 by 3.42%, which could be worrisome regarding growth expectations. According to the Indiana Business Review 2010-2050 population projections, however, Warrick County is expected to grow significantly more (10-40% growth) than Vanderburgh County (0-9.9% growth) or Posey County (more than 10% loss). Therefore, it seems safe to expect Newburgh to continue to grow at a moderate pace for the foreseeable future.

Race - Newburgh's residents, when broken down by race, form a homogenous group that is representative of Warrick County, but less diverse than Indiana as a whole. In Newburgh, 94.2% of residents are white, 1.4% black/African American, 0.1% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 2% Asian, and 2% Hispanic of any race. This represents a slight increase in diversity, as the 5.8% of non-white residents in 2010 increased from 2.6% in 2000. This increase is primarily composed of rising numbers of Asian and Hispanic residents. Overall, however, the racial diversity of Newburgh continues

to keep pace with the county (95% white) and to lag significantly behind the state as a whole (84.3% white). Diversity is likely to continue to increase. The data does not point to any particular programming or facility needs in this area.

Age - Newburgh's median age of 42.1 is significantly older than the median age of 39.7 in the county and 37 in the state. Newburgh's median age increased between 2000 and 2010 as the proportion of Newburgh residents aged 45 and over increased from 40.4% to 46.2%. This gain in the proportion of the middle-aged and seniors appears to have come at the cost of younger adults aged 20-44, whose proportion dropped from 35.2% of the population in 2000 to 29% in 2010. The proportion of those 45 or older is much higher than the county (42.8%) and state (38.5%) averages, and the proportion of those 44 or younger is slightly lower than the state average (32.7%). Seniors over 65 increased slightly from 12.4% in 2000 to 14.4% in 2010. This proportion is higher than the county (13.4%) and state (12%) averages.

Interestingly, the proportion of those younger than 19 (24.9% in 2010) did not drop. This proportion remains lower than the county (28.2%) and state (27.9%) proportions, however. The stable proportion of children likely indicates that those living in Newburgh who have

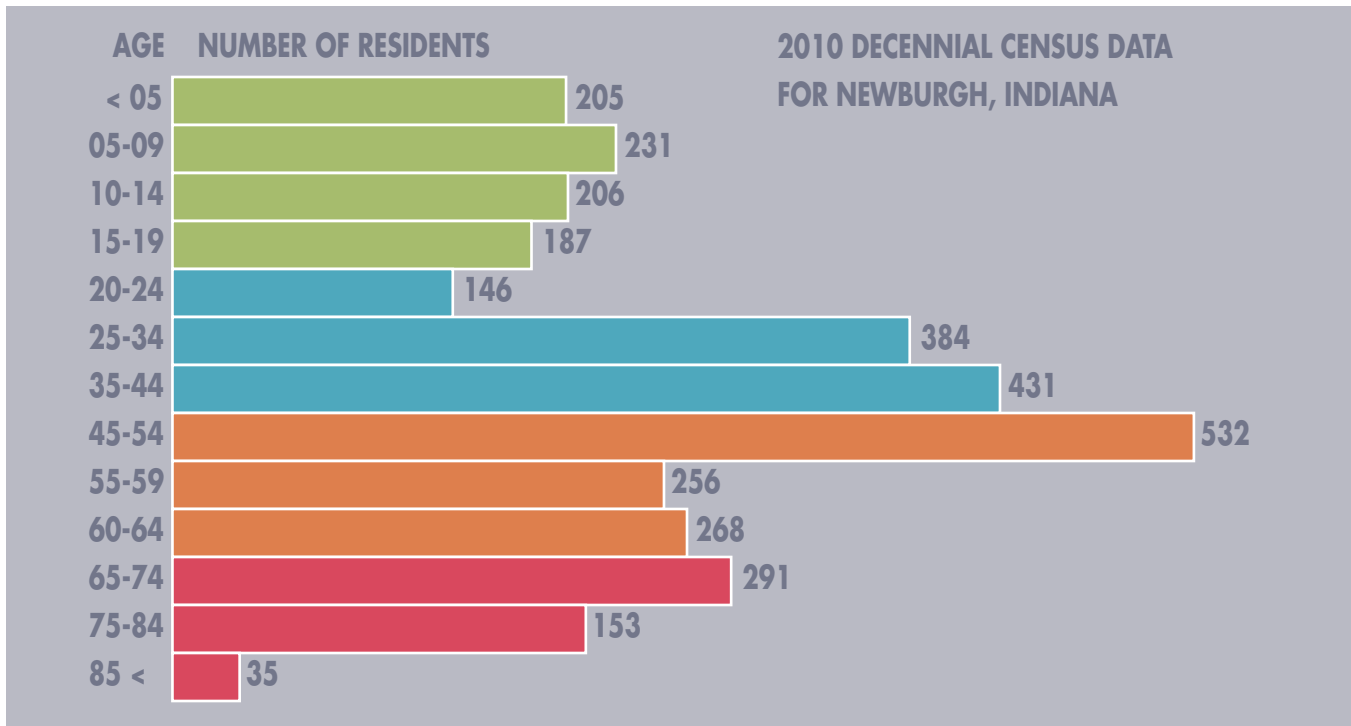


Chart 1: Age Distribution. US Census Bureau 2010.

children tend to stay in Newburgh, although parents are not tending to move into Newburgh.

The Newburgh age cohorts (see Chart 1) indicate an aging population whose growth should be attributed to new residents moving in, not to the reproduction of existing residents. Based on the age distribution, population growth should be attributed to new residents moving in as opposed to the reproduction of existing residents. This indicates that Newburgh is being perceived as an attractive place to reside, especially for mature adults. As a result, there may be a need to promote local culture and history, as a significant portion of the population will not have grown up in Newburgh.

Special Populations - The percentage of Newburgh's population over five years old with a disability was 14% in 2000; updated 2010 data for this figure is not available. Children 14 or younger represent 19.3% of the population. Teenagers 15-19 represent 5.6% of the population. Seniors aged 65 or older represent 14.4% of the population. Each of these populations is of special concern, and it is important to note that each represents a sizable portion of the total population.

Education - Newburgh residents aged 25 and older tend to be highly educated in comparison to Warrick County or the state as a whole, with 95% holding a high

school diploma, 35.8% holding a Bachelors degree, and 15.3% holding a graduate or professional degree. By comparison, Warrick County's figures are 91.3%, 25.6%, and 9.3%, respectively, and Indiana's figures are 86.2%, 22.4%, and 8.1%, respectively. These figures may be correlated to the attractiveness of Newburgh to mature adults and the many cultural events held in the town.

Poverty and Employment - Newburgh's poverty rate was 2.5% in 2000, and this figure was not updated in the 2010 Census. This is significantly lower than Warrick County's 7% and Indiana's 13.5%.

The low poverty rate is probably explained by the fact that most of the population is of working age (72.2%, versus 65.5% in Indiana as a whole), and an unusually high percentage of those are gainfully employed (69.4%), versus 60% in Indiana as a whole). If the low poverty rate were explained by simple affluence, then the median household income would be expected to be significantly higher than the state average; in fact, the median household income in 2010 was \$49,922 versus an only slightly lower state median of \$47,697, and a much higher county median of \$59,688.

These figures indicate that reasonable fees for park rentals, programs, and services are not likely to pose a

social justice concern among the park user group. Some caution is warranted, however, as the poverty rate in nearby Evansville rose significantly between 2000 and 2010, from 13.7% to an estimated 19.5%.

Major Employers - Newburgh's major employers include:

- The Women's Hospital
- Deaconess Gateway
- Newburgh Health Care
- Alcoa Warrick Operations
- The Warrick Power Plant

The average travel time for Newburgh workers is 19.5 minutes as many Newburgh residents work in Evansville. There, major employers include:

- Toyota
- American General Finance
- GE Plastics

Housing - Of all of the occupied housing units in Newburgh (1403), 1091 (77.8%) of them are owner-occupied, meaning that there is a high level of investment in the community, which is typical of Warrick County (in which 81.15% of housing units are owner-occupied) and high when compared to the rest of Indiana (in which 69.9% of housing units are owner-occupied). That said, there are 1403 households in Newburgh and 1603 total housing units, which contributes to a vacancy rate of 12.5% in the town. This compares to a 7% vacancy rate in Warrick County and a 10.5% vacancy rate in Indiana, making the town's housing situation less than ideal. The overall indication here is that Newburgh residents are highly invested in the town, but the equity represented by that investment is currently under duress.

Conclusions - The data above have several implications for the provision of parks and recreation in Newburgh. Based on age and educational data, there is a large and growing number of educated, mature adults living in Newburgh (almost half of the population). The park system should provide ample opportunities for this user population, such as through continued provision of ample cultural features and events.

There continues to be a significant number of children living in Newburgh (nearly a fifth of the population), and so the traditional role of parks as a place for children should not be neglected. Seniors and the disabled each represent significant minority populations with similar needs for accessible park resources. Teens represent

a final special population whose needs should be considered. There are not an especially high number of teens in Newburgh, but the 187 individuals counted in the 2010 Census, 5.6% of the population, are too many to justly ignore.

Economic data indicates that reasonable fees should not be a problem for the Newburgh population, which is not especially affluent, but does have an exceptionally low poverty rate. There are an unusually high number of workers in Newburgh; major employers should be considered as potential sources of philanthropy/grant funding.

public input

Public Input for the 2013-2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Update included three components: 1) a series of two focus groups conducted with park stakeholders; 2) a random sample-based recreational demand survey of the park user base; and 3) an advertised public meeting at which the draft plan was shared and comments on the plan were accepted and considered.

Focus Groups - A series of two focus groups were held on July 24, 2012 at the Newburgh Town Hall.

The first focus group was held at 6:00 pm with park stakeholders specifically identified and invited by Newburgh town officials. Letters were mailed or emailed one week in advance to 15 identified stakeholders. The Parks Board was also invited to attend this focus group. 14 total individuals attended this focus group, including two individuals representing the planning consultant, three individuals on the Parks Board, and three town staff /officials (leaving six attendees not otherwise affiliated with the planning process representing interests in a dog park, a skate park, the pool, tennis, and the master gardeners).

The second focus group was held at 7:30 pm. Letters were mailed one week in advance to 14 community stakeholder groups inviting them to send representatives. The Parks Board was also invited to attend this focus group. Seven total individuals attended this focus group, including two individuals representing the planning consultant and the Park Commissioner (leaving four attendees not otherwise affiliated with the planning process representing the Old Dam Community Band, the Town Museum, and the Newburgh-Area Business Association).

A script was prepared for the facilitators to guide the focus group discussion. A brief overview of the Newburgh Park System was given and then participants were asked to write their answers to five questions on five different colored cards. These included the identification of strengths, weaknesses, ambitions, underserved populations, and dreams. Answers were then anonymously shared and discussed among participants. Facilitators took notes on the discussion.

Focus Group Conclusions - The overall themes and takeaway from the focus groups were as follows:

- Rivertown Trail is well used and a draw for the community. There is significant desire to extend the trail west, eventually to Angel Mounds. Several specific improvements were suggested.
- Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool are heavily used, but showing their age and need badly to be updated, especially the bath house. The removal of the decaying batting cages is a high priority. Several improvements, such as a water/spray park, were discussed.
- There is a desire for a Performance Pavilion to provide performance space to musical and theatrical groups, including potential visiting performers who could be attracted. This would provide venue space for various festivals, meet the needs of seniors and people who have disabilities, and help position Newburgh as a "Destination for the Arts."
- There is a desire for a dog park.
- There is a desire for a skate park. This would address the needs of teens and could reduce misuse of downtown infrastructure.
- There was enthusiasm for the expansion of park programming.
- Several dreams were discussed, including better park maintenance and beauty, reconnecting with the Ohio River, positioning Newburgh as a Tri-State Arts Destination, and reconnecting with Nature.
- Reconnecting with the Ohio River received broad and enthusiastic interest.
- Reinforcing Newburgh's position as an arts destination received broad interest.
- There was a realization that there is significant work to be done in spreading awareness about Newburgh Parks.

Recreation Demand Survey - A survey was given to the user base of the Newburgh Park System as represented by those utilizing Newburgh utilities, including 9235

$$ss = \frac{Z^2 * p * (1-p)}{C^2} \quad , \text{ where:}$$

ss = sample size
 Z = Z value (i.e., 1.645 for 90% confidence level)
 p = spread of answers (i.e., 0.5 as worst-case)
 C = confidence interval (i.e., 0.1, for + -10%)

with an additional correction for finite population size:

$$SS = \frac{ss}{1 + [(ss - 1) / N]} \quad , \text{ where:}$$

SS = new (i.e., as used) sample size
 ss = original calculated sample size
 N = Population of study area \approx 27,943

Figure 1: Sample Size Formula.

households. Accepted statistical formulas (see Figure 1) and methods were used to determine a sample size that would be representative of the entire population at a + - 10% confidence interval and a 90% confidence level. A 60% response rate was planned for, so the minimum number of responses needed to be representative was increased by the inverse of 60%; as a result, 113 random households were selected to receive the survey.

Random selection was performed by generating 113 random numbers between 1 and 9235 by using the random number generator on random.org. The utility customer contacts were previously numbered 1 to 9235 and so the households corresponding to the random numbers generated were selected.

Questions were generated based on the results of the focus group and the need to determine the usage habits and general opinions of the user base.

The first mailing included an introductory letter, a survey, and a stamped-and-addressed return envelope. The letter explained the survey and also gave the option of filling out the survey online. Recipients were told that whether they responded would be tracked, but that their responses would not be associated with their name and would be anonymous. The first mailing was sent out on August 13 with requested responses by August 27. A 30% response rate was achieved through the first mailing.

A second mailing was sent to all non-respondents as of August 28. This mailing included a similar letter, a copy of the survey, a stamped-and-addressed envelope, a golf pencil, and a dollar bill. They were asked to respond by September 17. As a result of this mailing, the response rate was improved to 60%.

Newburgh Park Survey

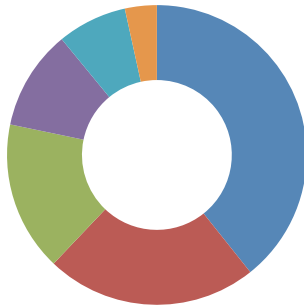


the RESPONSES, the RESULTS

What study area households had to say about Newburgh Parks.

1) How do Newburgh households use parks?

- #1 - Trails (Walk/Bike)
- #2 - Playground/Children Play
- #3 - Picnics/Family
- #4 - Pool
- #5 - Exercise/Recreation



2) How often does the average household use Newburgh Parks?

*Not including visual use (e.g., seeing Veterans Monument from road).

- Rivertown Trail - Once or twice a month
- Old Lock and Dam Park - Once a month
- New Locks and Dam Park - Almost once a month
- Community Park and Pool - Once every other month
- Indian Hill Overlook Park - Four or five times a year
- Veterans Monument - Once or twice a year

3) Which park facilities were most-chosen?

- #1 - Extend/Improve Rivertown Trail
- #2 - Spray Park or Pool Improvements
- #3 - Dog Park
- #4 - Nature Area/Trails
- #5 - Additional Picnic Facilities

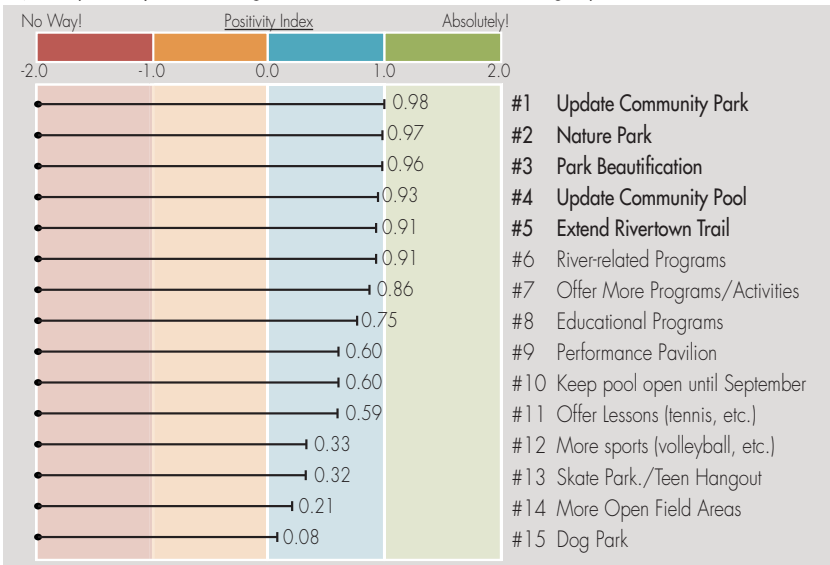
4) How did residents rank provided dreams?



5) What dreams did residents provide?

- #1 - Trail to Angel Mounds/Evansville
- #2 - Dog Park/"Pet Friendly Place"
- #3 - Take Advantage of Ohio River
- #4 - Expand the Park System
- #5 - Bring Families Out to Parks

6) How positively do Newburgh households feel about the following improvements?



8) Does Newburgh need...

Parks at new locations?



New facilities at existing parks?



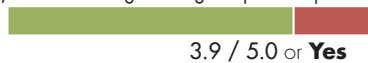
Additional programs & activities?



9) How do households prefer to get park news?

- #1 - Media (TV/Radio)
- #2 - Internet (Email/Website)
- #3 - Newspaper
- #4 - Signs/Flyers
- #5 - Mail/Newsletter

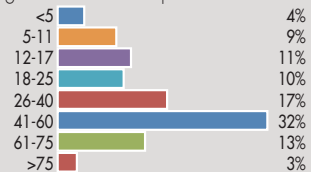
10) Does Newburgh do a good job with parks?



Demographics.

39% of households were in the town limits. 16% of households had a member with a disability. The average respondent household had been in Newburgh for 14.6 Yrs.

Age distribution of respondent households:



*Note: distribution matches Census data.

Note: Respondents answered that people with disabilities, seniors, teens, and young children were all served adequately. The responses of households containing these groups did not differ from the overall responses.

Figure 2: Recreation Demand Survey Results. Green3 2012. Results of the survey.

The results of this survey can be interpreted as representing the actual opinion of 60% of the user base within a + - 10% confidence interval with a 90% confidence level. Based on IDNR guidelines, the results of this survey can be utilized to make decisions about the desires of the user base.

Survey Results - The survey results are summarized and illustrated in Figure 2. The age distribution of the respondent households matched the age distribution of the park user base. The percentage of respondent households containing a member with a disability also matched that of the park user base.

There was overwhelming use of and support for the Rivertown Trail and its extension. The user base also expressed a significant desire to update the Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool. Again, park maintenance and beautification emerged as top priorities.

Other themes that recurred from the focus groups were the desire for nature-based recreation opportunities and Ohio River-related facilities and programming. There was lukewarm support for a Performance Pavilion. There was very little support for recreation opportunities for teens, which is not surprising considering that teens are a traditionally ignored minority. Opinions on the dog park were surprisingly polarized. There was a significant minority for whom a dog park was an important high priority, and several respondents listed dog owners as an underserved population; however the proposition of building a dog park received the least support of any proposition when averaged across all respondents.

The major new theme that emerged from the Recreation Demand Survey was a family-focused usage pattern for the parks and a connected desire for additional picnic facilities.

One important question was how users preferred to get park news. The most popular response to this question involved use of TV and radio, which are impractical choices for cost reasons. In second place, however, was use of the Internet, including email, social media, and the town website. This is a cheap avenue that the Parks Board only uses in a limited manner at this time.

The newspaper was the third-place response; this could be a practical way to get news out if park news can be reported as news and not as a paid-for notice. Signs and flyers are a cheap and effective way to get park news out that many households indicated should be used. Finally, many households indicated that mail was the preferred

way to get park news. The newsletter, which falls into this category, was mentioned several times; this is an affirmation of the newsletter's effectiveness.

The question of whether Newburgh does a good job with parks received a very positive response.

Parks Board Feedback - The results of the focus groups and the recreational demand survey were shared with the Parks Board, and the Parks Board provided information about its priorities given the public input data. Draft plan recommendations were prepared on the basis of these preferences together with context information, park inventory information, and the public input for this plan.

Public Meeting - On November 1, a public meeting was held to review the draft plan recommendations and accept comments on the plan. On October 24, information about the meeting was given as a press release to the Town Manager's media list and signs were prominently posted on the door of the Town Hall/Library. Channel 14 WFIE carried the story on October 29 and October 31.

A total of 22 people attended the public meeting, including 9 Town officials, 2 members of the media (representing WIKY and Warrick News), and 2 consultant representatives (leaving 9 unaffiliated attendees). Comment sheets were passed out to all attendees. Sheets were collected at the end of the meeting, and the sheets had instructions for mailing or emailing comments afterwards. Questions and comments were also invited before the end of the presentation (no one responded).

A total of three comment sheets were returned. The comments received were positive about the plan recommendations. Ideas that received particular comment included the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve (whom to involve) and the improved river access/boat docking downtown (strong support and the ambitious desires for docking facilities).

Public Review - The Draft Plan was made available at the Town Hall between November 14 and December 6 and the opportunity to review the plan there and provide comment was advertised in the Newburgh-Chandler Register on November 14. The newspaper advertisement also noted that the plan would be adopted pending public comment at the December 6 Parks Board meeting. Details of the meeting's time and location were provided.

No comments were received in response to this advertisement. A total of X people attended the December

6 Parks Board meeting, including X town officials (leaving X unaffiliated attendees). Questions and comments were solicited at the meeting (no one responded). Since there were no objections or issues raised by the public requiring plan alterations, the Parks Board passed Resolution XX, adopting this Master Plan update.

Park System Evaluation

section four

Contents:

- Management Structure
- Staffing
- Existing Programs
- Inventory of Existing Parks
- Mini and Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Linear and Special Use Parks
- Regional Parks and Preserves
- Level of Service (LOS) Analysis
- Progress Since the Last Plan
- Accessibility Self-Assessment

management structure

The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board is comprised of the Board of Park Commissioners consisting of five persons. The board consists of four, at-large members appointed by the Town Council who each serve four-year terms and one Ohio Township Library Board liaison who serves a one-year term. The Board is an independent policy-making body, with a bipartisan appointment process. The Board was established on March 25, 1969.

Parks Board Structure - The current board is made up as listed in Chart 2. There have been difficulties gathering a quorum for Parks Board meetings, and this has been exacerbated by the failure of the Library Board to make timely appointments.

In addition to the Parks Board, there is also an appointed group of Parks Advisory Board Members whose role is

to advise the Park Board. These are appointed annually by the Town Council. The Park Advisory Board currently includes: Jim Case, Mike Patterson, Ellen Sprinkle, and Mary Ann Wilsbacher.

Chart 3 shows the current management structure of the Newburgh Park System.

Parks Board Meetings - The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board conducts public meetings. The regular time and place for the public meeting is at 6:00 pm the first Thursday evening of each month at the Newburgh Town Hall. At those meetings, policies, financial allocations, and special projects are discussed. Additional public hearings and special task force committee meetings are needed to receive public input on specific projects.

Board Member	Appointment	Term Exp.	Position	Contact
Amanda Burkins	Town Council	12.2012	President	812.842.2763
Vicki Nienaber	Town Council	12.2015	Secretary	812.853.8766
Matt Timmel	Town Council	12.2013	Member	812.853.8953
Kevin Wells	Town Council	12.2015	Member	812.490.3377
<Vacant>	Library Board	Annual	Library Appt.	N/A
Tonya McGuire	Town Council	Annual	Liaison/Commissioner	812.853.3578

Chart 2: Current Board Member Appointments.

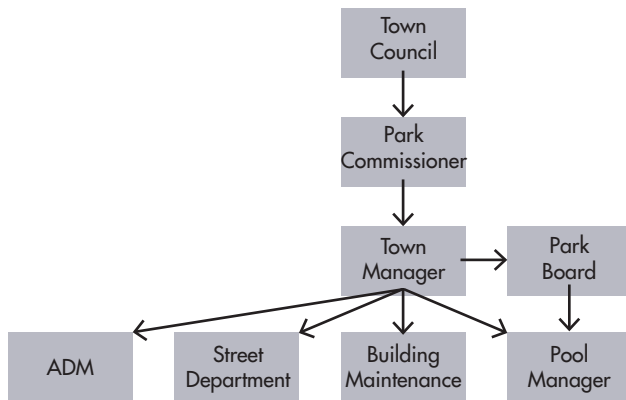


Chart 3: Current Park Management Structure.

staffing

The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board has no full-time year round staff members. All park related tasks are carried out by volunteers, Town staff, or seasonal pool employees. Important staff are listed in Chart 4.

Town Staff - The Town's staff employees perform shared duties with other departments, and the Parks Board pays a proportionate share of staff compensation for the time spent on parks. This amount of time varies seasonally, but is approximately equivalent to 32 hours/wk. for each of 3 Street Department employees between April and October, and 25 hours/wk. for each of 2 Building Maintenance employees year round. The Town also provides the services of the Town Manager, secretarial services, and book keeping services. Since most functions are performed by Town Staff, the current management structure positions the Town Manager in the effective role of Park Superintendent.

Direct Staff - Seasonally, the Parks Board directly employs a number of employees to operate the Community Pool. This includes 1 full-time Pool Manager between mid-May and mid-August, and 25 part-time Life Guards and Concession Workers an average of 25 hours/wk. each between mid-May and mid-August.

Recommendations - The two previous park plans have recommended the creation of a full time staff position for the Parks Board. Instead, the services of town employees

have been increased to meet increased maintenance demands posed by recent park expansions. Whether park maintenance is carried out by Town employees or Parks Board employees is not a critical issue, and Town maintenance staff could continue to be used assuming that staffing levels keep up with need.

The public input process revealed several non-maintenance needs of the park system that will require additional manpower to satisfy, however. In particular, public input revealed an extensive desire for park programming and a significant need for greater publicity of park offerings. Ambitious fundraising, volunteer, and coordination efforts would also take additional manpower. Currently, these functions, or their coordination, are largely performed by the Town Manager. To fully realize the potential of these efforts, however, a year round dedicated staff member is needed, even if only part time. This need will only increase as the size of the Town and the Park System increases.

existing programs

Newburgh Park System resources serve a variety of programming needs, however, there is little or no programming sponsored by the Parks Board except for rentals and fees associated with the Community Pool, the Old Lock and Dam facilities, and sponsor brick purchases at Veterans Monument Park.

The most interesting programming takes the form of events, which are described in detail in Section Two.

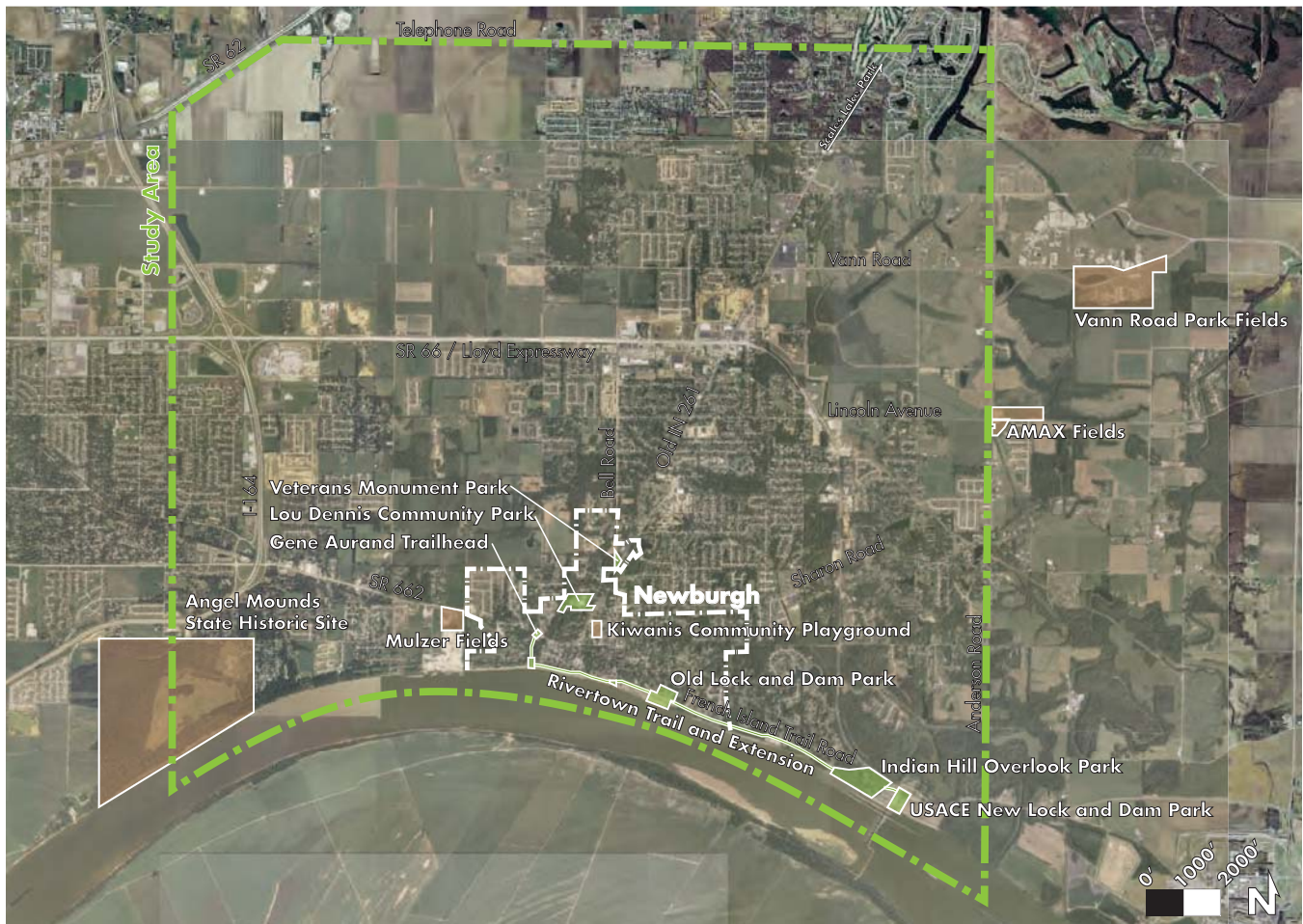
The three most active leagues in the area are Pepsi Youth Soccer, Castle Youth Football, and Newburgh Junior Baseball; none of these utilize Park Board operated facilities. The Kiwanis and Newburgh Elementary operate their own programming at Kiwanis Community Playground, which they lease from the Town.

inventory of existing parks

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Classification System for park and recreation facilities

Staff Position	Name	Duties	Contact
Town Manager	Cynthia E. Burger	Strategy, management and reporting	812.853.3578
Building Maintenance	Gerald Bowser	Maintain all park areas/facilities	812.853.3578
Pool Manager	Emily Goodman	Manage pool and pool programming	812.853.3578
Street Superintendent	John Heck	Mow and trim all parks, empty trash	812.853.6648

Chart 4: Current Important Staff Members.



Map 8: Parks in the Planning Area. Aerial 2005 Indiana Map. Parks in green are operated by the Town of Newburgh, those in brown are not.

categorizes park facilities according to size and the population that is served by the facility. As utilized in the 2011-2015 Indiana SCORP, the basic NRPA classifications include:

- **Mini-Parks.** These serve a 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius and should be sized at 1/4 to 1/2 an acre per 1000 people in the service radius.
- **Neighborhood Parks.** These serve a 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius with a population of up to 5,000. These parks should be sized at 15+ acres, or with one to two acres per 1,000 people in the service area. Typical neighborhood park uses include recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, picnicking, and playgrounds.
- **Community Parks.** These serve a one to two mile radius, and would typically serve several neighborhoods. These parks should be sized at 25+ acres, or with five to eight acres per 1,000 people in the service area. Community parks may include opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Examples of active recreation opportunities are

athletic complexes, swimming pools, and walking trails. Passive uses in parks include picnic areas, nature viewing areas, and undeveloped prairie and woods.

- **Regional Parks and Preserves.** These serve a radius equal to one hour of driving time, which would typically include several communities. These parks should be sized at 200+ acres, or with five to ten acres per 1,000 people in the service area.
- **Linear and Special Use Parks.** There are no standards for these park types.

The Indiana SCORP further notes that these classifications should vary depending on the characteristics of each community, and that a level of service analysis should include all park facilities that are known to be publicly accessible.

Inventory forms of all Newburgh owned or operated parks were completed on site and are available in the appendix.



Figure 3: Pool at Lou Dennis Community Park. Green3 2012. The community pool is a popular summer time recreational destination.

mini and neighborhood parks

Although there are three mini or neighborhood parks accessible to Newburgh Park System users, none of these parks are operated by the Newburgh Parks Department. This is somewhat of a risk, as neighborhood parks are a critical park system component, and Newburgh cannot tailor parks that it does not operate to the needs of park system users. The community parks and the Rivertown Trail system do some of the work of neighborhood parks. The risk is that some areas of the community (i.e., some neighborhoods) may not have close access to important neighborhood park features such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and spontaneous/unorganized play fields.

community parks

There are four community parks accessible to Newburgh Park System users. Of these, three are operated by the Newburgh Parks Department. These include:

Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool (11 AC) -

The Lou Dennis Community Park is located off Jefferson

Street near the center of the planning area. This facility includes one community pool (see Figure 3), two playgrounds (see Figures 4 and 5), two tennis courts, one basketball court, one soccer field, and two picnic shelters. The park also includes a community pool building that houses administrative facilities, concessions, restrooms, and bath house. A former batter cage is currently an eyesore within the park.

One of the two playgrounds in Lou Dennis Community Park is the Fortress of Fun (see Figure 5). It is a complex of play spaces that offer challenging skill development and exercise for younger children. The project was built in 1998 over five days by community volunteers. Technical assistance for the development of the facility was provided by Leathers and Associates.

Lou Dennis Community Park is ideally located and programmed as a community park, but at 11 acres, it is much smaller than NPRA recommendations. Any possible expansion of Lou Dennis Community Park would be an excellent service to the community. A renovation is clearly needed, both to renovate existing spaces and to correct significant ADA deficiencies.



Figure 4: Lou Dennis Community Park Playground. Green3 2012.



Figure 5: Lou Dennis Community Park Fortress of Fun. Green3 2012.

Old Lock and Dam Park (13.4 AC) - Old Lock & Dam Park is adjacent to the Ohio River and just east of downtown on French Island Trail. The park is a significant node on the Rivertown Trail. French Island Trail and Rivertown Trail split the park into north and south sections. The south section features a boat launch with parking and an historic lock & dam operations building. Use of the boat launch requires a permit or a season pass that is available at the Town Hall.

The north section features panoramic views of the Ohio River as well as a gazebo, two cottages, and an historic log cabin with a garden. Historically, this site has been defined by the sculpted bluffs constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the original Lock and Dam No. 47 (see Figure 6). The May 2011 flooding and landslide has distressed many of these features, however.

The lockmaster cottages and the control building are available to the public for rent. The Old Lock and Dam Park is a popular venue for cultural events, and the town can close French Island Trail for this purpose.

Indian Hill Overlook Park (17.6 AC) - This is a historic site that was once an American Indian settlement, and later was the site of the estate of a prominent local family, the Schmidts. The Schmidts built a storied house in 1924 and re-built in 1933 after a fire destroyed the first house. The Indian Hill Overlook Park was added to the Newburgh Park System in 2005 and has since been renovated and established as a popular passive recreation park along the Rivertown Trail.

The park features picnic facilities among the remains of the 1933 house and surrounded by woods. Twin stone pillars remain at the entrance to the site. There is an overlook (see Figure 7) that gives an unmatched view of the Ohio River and the Newburgh Locks and Dam. In



Figure 6: Old Lock and Dam Park. Green3 2012.



Figure 7: Indian Hill Overlook Park. Green3 2012.

2011, ALCOA donated funds for the installation of two interpretive signs and various plantings. The park provides a much-needed nature connection to the Newburgh Park System. Utilization of this park could be improved by providing a pedestrian route to the lower level pond and installing simple amenities there.

linear and special use parks

There are two special use parks and one linear park accessible to Newburgh Park System users. The two operated by the Newburgh Parks Department include:

Veterans Monument Park (0.9 AC) - Veterans Monument Park is a small park with a monument plaza erected to honor all veterans from the past, the present, and the future. See Figure 8.

Rivertown Trail (2.84 miles) - The Rivertown Trail was constructed in two phases between 2008 and 2011,



Figure 8: Veterans Monument Park. Green3 2012.



Figure 9: Rivertown Trail. Green3 2012.

and a third phase is planned to bring the trail west from the Water Street Overlook to Mulzer Fields. Currently, the Trail extends almost the length of Newburgh from the New Locks and Dam Park (see Figure 13) in the east, south of Indian Hill Overlook Park (see Figure 7), through the Old Lock and Dam Park (see Figure 6) and the downtown plaza (see Figure 10), and finally through the Water Street Overlook (see Figure 11) to the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead (see Figure 12). Eventually the trail is planned to extend the full 5 miles to Angel Mounds, where the trail will link with the Pigeon Creek Greenway as part of the American Discovery Trail.

parks not operated by Newburgh

Relying on non-operated parks for critical components of the park system is risky because parks not operated by Newburgh may not necessarily reflect the interests of Newburgh citizens. At the same time, however, these parks offer a significant fiscal advantage to Newburgh because they are available for use without requiring operational or maintenance funding. All the parks listed



Figure 10: Downtown Plaza. Green3 2012.



Figure 11: Water Street Overlook. Green3 2012.

below are open to the public. They are listed according to their NRPA classification.

Mini and Neighborhood Parks - There are three publicly accessible mini or neighborhood parks within the Newburgh Park System, none of which are operated by the Newburgh Parks Department.

- The New Locks and Dam Park (6.7 AC) is located at the Newburgh Locks and Dam. It is not operated or owned by the Newburgh Parks Board. This is within a useful distance of the Newburgh Park System user base, but it is farther than ideal for a neighborhood park. This is a large grassy field with playground equipment and many picnic tables and grills, as well as restrooms and informational kiosks explaining the function of the Newburgh Locks and Dam, which commands the viewshed of this park. There is an ample parking lot located here. See Figure 13.



Figure 12: B. Gene Aurand Trailhead. Green3 2012.



Figure 13: New Locks and Dam Park. Green3 2012.

- Kiwanis Community Playground (2.25 AC) is open to the public, but is not operated by the Newburgh Park Board. It is leased from Newburgh by the Kiwanis and the Warrick County School Corporation. There is a shelter with restrooms and a track on site that are used by Newburgh Elementary School, and a Kiwanis building and gravel parking lot that are used by the Kiwanis. The park is well sized for a mini/neighborhood park, and it is positioned ideally within a residential neighborhood. See Figure 14.
- AMAX Athletic Fields (13.26 AC) are mostly open to the public, but are not operated by the Town of Newburgh. The soccer fields are leased from Newburgh and run by the Pepsi Youth Soccer League. The football complex, which is not open to the public, is leased from Newburgh and run by Castle Youth Football League. AMAX is located at Outer Lincoln Avenue and Anderson Road, at the western edge of the planning area. Publicly accessible portions of the park include a picnic shelter, four soccer fields, and a small playground. See Figure 15.



Figure 14: Kiwanis Community Playground. Green3 2012.



Figure 15: AMAX Athletic Fields. Green3 2012.

Community Parks - The Vann Road Fields Park (76 AC) is a community park not owned or operated by the Town of Newburgh. It is owned and operated by Newburgh Junior Baseball and features six baseball fields with all associated amenities and a large playground. This park is located to the northwest of the planning area, but is within a useful distance.

Special Use Parks - There is one special use park that is accessible to Newburgh Park System users, but not operated by Newburgh. This is the Mulzer Fields Park (12 AC), which contains two upper-age-group baseball fields with associated baseball amenities (but no playgrounds, open fields, or other types of recreation amenities). See Figure 16.

Regional Parks and Preserves - It is typical for regional parks and preserves not to be owned or operated by a local community, and this is the case in Newburgh. The two most significant regional parks and preserves for the Newburgh Park System are noted below:



Figure 16: Mulzer Fields. Green3 2012.

NRPA Class	Recommended Supply (per 1000 pop.)	Existing Supply	Overage/ (Shortfall)
Overall Park System	10 AC * 3.33 = 33.3 AC	63.9 AC	30.6 AC
Community Park	8 AC * 3.33 = 26.6 AC	42 AC	15.4 AC
Neighborhood Park	2 AC * 3.33 = 6.66 AC	10 AC	3.3 AC

Chart 5: NRPA LOS Analysis. Indiana 2011-2015 SCORP. Based on the Newburgh Town limits, there are significant overages.

- Angel Mounds State Historic Site (603 AC) is the site of a pre-historic ceremonial mound and is a National Historic Landmark. There is a large nature preserve with trails on the site. Angel Mounds is located along the Ohio River at the western edge of the planning area.
- Scales Lake Park (479 AC) is located in Boonville and provides camping, trails, a pool and beach, and a petting zoo.

level of service (los) analysis

A Level of Service (LOS) analysis was performed based on NRPA standards. There are 3,325 residents in the Town of Newburgh. Previous park plans have utilized the population of the Town of Newburgh in the LOS analysis, resulting in a perceived overage in acres of park land (see Chart 5). Comparing these results to the previous plan, it is evident that the Parks Board has worked diligently to add park resources since the last plan.

Planning Area LOS - The planning area, which is based on the likely user base of the Newburgh Park System, extends substantially beyond the Town limits. Parks in the area are clustered around the Newburgh Town limits with a few parks to the northwest. Estimates of population of the planning area based on 2010 Census data indicate that there are 27,943 residents. Performing the LOS analysis based on the planning area, the conclusion is instead that there are significant park shortfalls (see Chart 6). A visual inspection of the distribution and quantity of parks in the planning area confirms the reasonableness of this conclusion, as there are large areas within the planning area where there are no public parks (see Map 8).

LOS Analysis Conclusions - Regardless of the numerical results, established standards do not take into account whether parks resources are meeting the needs of the community. This planning process is designed to determine whether parks are meeting community needs and what future changes and improvements should be

aimed for. The LOS analysis adds an additional layer of information that should be viewed within the context of the plan as a whole. Generally speaking, the results indicate that additional parks should be added within the Newburgh Park System planning area.

progress since the last plan

Significant steps taken since the completion of the 2008-2012 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan update include:

- Veterans Monument plaza construction completed in 2008.
- Old Lock and Dam facilities renovated and offered as rental facilities
- Rivertown Trail Phase 1 completed in 2010.
- Rivertown Trail Phase 2 completed in 2011.
- Town connectivity improved through sidewalk construction completed in 2012.
- Indian Hill Overlook Park renovated. Interpretive signage and plantings added in 2011 with ALCOA grant.
- Achieved cleanup and repair of Ohio River flooding damage to Rivertown Trail and Old Lock and Dam Park in 2011. Final repairs to Old Lock and Dam Park in progress.
- Rivertown Trail Phase 3 planning in progress.
- Town negotiating surplus of Indian Hill Overlook Park from US Army Corps of Engineers.

accessibility compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirement took effect on January 26, 1992. All new facilities designed and constructed for occupancy later than that date must be accessible.

Physical barriers in existing public accommodations must be removed if readily achievable. If not, alternative methods of providing services or equivalent experiences must be offered if those methods are readily achievable.

NRPA Class	Recommended Supply (per 1000 pop.)	Existing Supply	Overage/ (Shortfall)
Overall Park System	10 AC * 27.94 = 279.4 AC	136.9 AC	(142.5 AC)
Community Park	8 AC * 27.94 = 223.5 AC	118 AC	(105.52 AC)
Neighborhood Park	2 AC * 27.94 = 55.9 AC	22.2 AC	(33.7 AC)

Chart 6: NRPA LOS Analysis. Indiana 2011-2015 SCORP. Based on the planning area of likely park users, there are significant shortfalls.

Town Self-Assessment & Transition Plan - The Town of Newburgh completed a self-assessment and transition plan through Town Ordinance 1992-9 adopted October 14, 1992. At that time, a transition plan identified needed changes, and the Town has made substantial progress which it has tracked since that time (see Appendix E).

ADA Coordinator - The Town Manager acts as the designated ADA/Section 504 Coordinator. The Section 504 Coordinator is identified with contact information on the Town's Non-Discrimination Policy (see Appendix E, the Town Manager's contact information is also provided in Chart 4).

Grievance Procedure - There is a grievance procedure outlined in Ordinance 1992-9 (see Appendix E). Complaints should be directed to the ADA Coordinator in writing with the submitter's name and address and a brief description of the violation. Complaints should be made within 30 days of the alleged violation. An investigation may be conducted as appropriate with all sides given the chance to submit evidence and all interested persons given the opportunity to comment. A written determination of the validity of the complaint and a description of any resolution will be issued by the ADA Coordinator and forwarded to the submitter within 15 days of the filing of the complaint.

A request for appeal may be made within 30 days of the determination. The appeal request should be made in writing to the ADA Compliance Committee, Town Hall, Newburgh, IN 47630. The ADA Compliance Committee's decision will be made within 15 days of receipt of the appeal and the decision will be final.

The use and result of this process is not reliant on a submitter's having filed a complaint with a responsible federal department or agency, and having filed a complaint with a responsible federal department or agency will not preclude the use of this grievance procedure.

Accommodations - Auxiliary aids to accommodate disabilities are available at all Parks Board meetings. The Town website (including the Park Department) does not

include sound, but provisions for sight-impaired access include information availability by computer disk.

park accessibility self-assessment

A thorough park inventory including ADA assessment was performed as a part of this park planning process. This inventory is presented feature by feature in appendix A, but a summary of information about the accessibility of parks owned and/or operated by Newburgh is presented here.

Rivertown Trail - The Rivertown Trail is ADA compliant to the best knowledge of those preparing this plan. This includes 2.84 miles of asphalt trail and directly associated open spaces: the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead, including accessible bathroom facilities (including accessible water fountain) and parking (1 van accessible space); the Water Street Overlook; and the Downtown Plaza. Informational and directional signage includes braille. There are three interpretive signs along the trail which are not equipped with auxiliary aids for those with impaired vision.

Old Lock and Dam (North) - The half of the Old Lock and Dam Park north of French Island Trail is not currently ADA accessible due to remaining damage from the May 2011 flood and resultant landslide. The interiors of the two cottages are ADA accessible. Repairs that will restore this park to ADA accessibility are planned.

Old Lock and Dam (South) - The half of the Old Lock and Dam Park south of French Island Trail is mostly accessible. The upper plaza, bathroom facilities, and historic Control Building are all ADA accessible. Parking is paved and there are 6 accessible reserved spaces provided including van accessible spaces. Ramp access to the lower plaza and boat launch area is only by the vehicular ramps, and ramp access to the floating dock is provided, but the slope is variable depending on water level on the Ohio River.

Lou Dennis Community Park - The Lou Dennis Community Park is presently in general need of

refurbishment, and is not accessible. There are 3 marked accessible spaces which are van accessible, and ADA compliant walkways are provided to a picnic shelter and to the pool facilities and restrooms, which are ADA compliant. The basketball court is not accessible due to the lack of a paved walkway extending all the way to the court surface, which could be easily solved. The ADA walkway to the picnic shelter runs past the fortress of fun, but the fortress of fun is not ADA accessible or on ADA compliance playground surfacing. There is no ADA walkway to the other playground equipment, which is not on ADA compliant surfacing, and is not itself accessible. There is no ADA walkway to the soccer field, the other open field areas, or the tennis court and associated shelter. The tennis court is fenced in such a way that wheelchair access inside is not easily achievable. Three auxiliary parking lots are gravel surfaced.

Some ADA corrections (notably the basketball court) can be easily achieved, however the state of other accessibility conditions in the park are reflective of the general age of the facility and should be corrected along with a planned general refurbishment of the park.

Indian Hill Overlook Park - Indian Hill Overlook Park is partially ADA compliant. There is one marked accessible parking space (van accessible), but an additional space should be provided based on the number of spaces at the parking lot. An accessible walkway is provided to accessible bathroom facilities (including accessible water fountains), the overlook, and to the connection with the Rivertown Trail. There are no picnic tables on the site that accommodate wheelchairs or that are on hard, level surfaces. Trash can heights should be checked for ADA compliance. There are two interpretive signs which do not include auxiliary aids for those with visual impairments.

Veterans Monument Park - Veterans Monument Park is ADA compliant to the best knowledge of those preparing this plan. There is one marked accessible parking space (van accessible). There is ADA compliant access up to and on the monument. There is no park development behind the monument.

AMAX Fields (Soccer) - AMAX Fields is owned by the Town of Newburgh, but is leased to other organizations. The Soccer Complex portion is leased to Pepsi Youth Soccer League. One accessible parking space is present, but additional spaces should be provided based on the size of the lot. The remainder of the lot is gravel surfaced. An accessible walkway is provided to the concession/picnic shelter and restrooms, from which the majority of the fields are visible, although closer accessible access

would be ideal. The southern portion of the soccer complex contains an extra field and gravel overflow parking. This entire section is not ADA accessible.

AMAX Fields (Football) - AMAX Fields is owned by the Town of Newburgh, but is leased to other organizations. The Football Complex portion is leased to Castle Youth Football League. The parking lots are gravel surfaced, but there are 3 paved and marked accessible parking spaces provided, one of which could be van accessible. ADA compliant pathways are provided to bathroom and locker room facilities, concessions, and bleachers. There is no ADA compliant pathway to a picnic shelter within the complex. There is a multi-level playground structure which is not accessible, is not on an ADA compliant surface, and has no ADA compliant access.

Kiwanis Community Playground - The Kiwanis Community Playground is owned by the Town of Newburgh, but is leased by the Kiwanis (who control the building and surrounding area) and the Warrick County School Corporation (who control the track and shelter). At the far north end, there is a large gravel parking lot with no accessible spaces or space markings. The sidewalk along the east side of the park has some ramps, but lacks ramps at building entrances. The Kiwanis building lacks ADA ramps at the east side, although it does have railings (the west side is at-grade, but has no accessible walkway). There is no accessible walkway to the asphalt track. There is ADA access to the shelter/concession building/restroom facilities.

Contents:

- Vision Statement
- Rivertown Trail Manifest Destiny
- Update Lou Dennis Community Park
- Improve Access to the Ohio River
- Expand Park System Fabric
- Site Specific Improvements
- Performance Venue
- Dog Park
- Cypress Creek Nature Preserve
- Operational Improvements
- Park Staff
- Study Parks Board Structure

park system vision plan

The Vision Plan includes recommendations for both physical improvements and policy changes. This section is intended to provide a compelling vision for the future of the Newburgh Park System. It is also intended to provide detailed recommendations for the improvement of the Newburgh Park System and for the achievement of the Parks Board's mission.

Park System Vision Statement - The Vision for the Newburgh Park System is that of a network of well-kept, beautiful parks that is woven into the community, and that connects the community with its greatest resource, the Ohio River. This vision is based on the overwhelming recurring themes that came from each form of public input and discussion. Key components include:

- Park beautification and a high standard of maintenance.
- Connectivity with the community and between parks.
- Use of the parks to improve quality of life in the community, including culturally and economically.
- Focus on enriching the connection between the community and the Ohio River.

This vision should be considered the mission statement for the future development of the park system, and future initiatives should be targeted toward achieving this vision.

Rivertown Trail Manifest Destiny - Each form of input in the planning process revealed overwhelming use of and support for the Rivertown Trail. The average planning area household uses the Rivertown Trail once or twice a month, which accounts for more than a third of all park usage. Walking and biking on trails was the #1 reported way that households used the park system. This data matches 2011 SCORP data which notes that hiking, walking, and jogging are the #1 Hoosier activity trend.

The entire community appears to share a vision for the completion of the planned westward expansion of the trail to Angel Mounds. The extension and improvement of Rivertown Trail was the #1 free-response park facility addition/improvement, and extending the trail to Angel Mounds and Evansville was the #1 free-response dream that residents had for the park system.

The expansion of Rivertown Trail west to Angel Mounds will further several components of the Park System Vision. It will improve park connectivity by linking the incredible resources of Angel Mounds and Mulzer Field to the Newburgh Park System, as well as improve community connectivity to the park system as the lengthened trail interfaces with more areas of the community. The Rivertown Trail has also been a key factor in improving the community's connection with the Ohio River, as the view of the Ohio River is a key attraction of the trail.

Finally, extending Rivertown Trail will further increase the number of people that the trail brings into the community, especially once linked with the Evansville trail system.

Therefore, the Parks Board should consider the extension of the Rivertown Trail to Angel Mounds to be a high priority as future initiatives are considered.

In addition to the extension of the Rivertown Trail, there have been a number of suggested improvements that should be pursued as possible. These include:

- Mile markers along the trail.
- Alleviating pedestrian/vehicular conflicts at Water Street.
- Increased signage advertising the locations of public restrooms along the trail.
- Potential increases in the amount of lighting, benches, and trash receptacles along the trail.
- Consider the addition of fitness stations or other enrichments of the trail use experience.
- Begin to consider preliminary, long-term planning for the extension of the trail eastward; as a component of the American Discovery Trail, an eastward connection will eventually need to be made.

the condition of Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool, which supports four of the top five ways that Newburgh households use parks: #2 playgrounds, #3 picnics and family gatherings, #4 the pool, and #5 exercise and recreation.

When Newburgh residents were asked to select improvements that they supported from a list of possibilities, the #1 chosen improvement was to update Lou Dennis Community Park and the #4 chosen improvement was to update the pool. A spray park or pool improvements were the #2 free-response park facility addition/improvement.

Given the general feeling that Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool are showing signs of wear, residents' support of park beautification and maintenance can also be interpreted fairly as support for these projects. Park Beautification and Maintenance was the #1 chosen dream and the #3 most supported park improvement.

The entire Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool complex is in need of renovation, and any major initiatives should be taken as a piece of a larger vision for a renovated park. There are also opportunities to improve the service this park offers to the community through better connectivity and expansion. Key improvements that should be undertaken as part of such a renovation include:

Update Lou Dennis Community Park - Newburgh residents and stakeholders are very concerned about



Map 9: Community Park Renovation Concept. Green3 2012. Above is one concept for the renovation of Community Park and Pool. See Appendix J.

- Removal of the batting cage fence and concrete pad, replaced with planted grass.
- Update/renovation of the existing bath house.
- Design and installation of an overall circulation system that addresses current accessibility problems and provides an organization scheme for the park.
- Update and consolidation of aged playground equipment.
- Rehabilitation of the Lou Dennis Community Pool as feasible and necessary. The addition of a spray park/water park feature should be considered with the pool rehabilitation.
- Design and construction of a north-south trail linking Lou Dennis Community Park with the Rivertown Trail through the Great Ravine. This would contribute greatly to the park system vision by creating a strong north-south pedestrian infrastructure backbone, and by connecting the core community park with the Ohio River and the Rivertown Trail. This would also create nature areas (see next bullet).
- Design and construction of nature trail loops through the wooded areas of Lou Dennis Community Park. Nature areas and trails were a high public priority, reaching #4 for free-response park facility addition, #3 for chosen dream, and the #2 most supported park improvement.
- Eventual improvements to existing park features: paving of all parking lots, grading and turf improvements to the soccer field, and rehabilitation of the sand volleyball court with the installation of surround decking as a lasting solution to sand court entropy.
- Study and improvement of park landscaping.
- Consider additional picnic facilities/shelters at the park.
- Consider the acquisition of the open space across Jefferson Street from the park. The park is currently well undersized for the community park function it serves, both by observation and by NRPA standards (at 11 acres, it is 14 acres smaller than recommended). The open space across Jefferson Street would be an opportunity to provide additional recreational features desired by the community, such as additional picnic facilities and a visible area for teens to hang out. This would also be a potential location for a performance pavilion or dog park.

The condition of the Lou Dennis Community Park and Pool has a huge impact on the community quality of life and on the maintenance and beautification standard of the park system. The addition of a north-south connection



Figure 17: Improved downtown river access. Green3 2011.

along the Great Ravine would greatly add to park system connectivity, and the new north-south backbone connection would be a huge factor in improving the connection between northern planning area residents and the Ohio River.

A concept for park renovation is shown in Map 9.

Improve Access to the Ohio River - An improved connection with the Ohio River was an important recurring theme in public/stakeholder input and is one of the key components of the park system vision. This was also brought up as an issue in the 2011 Newburgh Downtown Action Plan, so the Park Board should seek to work with Downtown Merchants on river connectivity goals.

Currently, there are four access points to the Ohio River in town. These are the Water Street Overlook, a stairway down to the river at Market Street, a stairway down to the river at the Downtown Plaza, and the boat launch at the Old Lock and Dam.

These provide good opportunities to interact with the river, but these facilities can be improved to achieve much better results. Suggestions have included improved boat access, fishing access, physical access closer to the water, a marina, and river cruises and programming. The Parks Board should consider the following improvements in support of connecting to the Ohio River:

- Improve boat launch at Old Lock and Dam.
- Provide signage and dock at Downtown Plaza staircase to river (see Figure 17).
- Provide fishing facilities at Water Street Overlook.

Expand Park System Fabric - Based on observations of the inventoried parks in the system, Newburgh currently relies on an interlinked system of linear parks and small to medium parks. There is a great need for additional parks north of the present town limits. Given the developed nature of the planning area, the best way to meet this need would be to acquire properties in needed areas as feasible, and to link these properties together using linear parks (see Figure 18).

Offering neighborhood parks is an important factor in quality of life, and as the park system expands, connectivity will increase in importance.

Site Specific Improvements - During the inventory and throughout the public input process, a number of site specific improvements suggested themselves or were suggested:

- Old Lock and Dam Park: Large portions of the historic formal terracing on the northern portion of this site has sloughed away, and portions of the sidewalk infrastructure are in need of leveling and repair. The permanent effects of the flooding of 2011 should be considered a jumping-off point

from which to undertake a re-envisioning of the use of the north portion of the park. An overall scheme should be created that both respects the site's historic character and provides updated design and programming. In doing so, the Parks Board should consider the slope-stabilizing effects of vegetation and the new natural form that portions of the landscape assumed during the flooding.

This juncture is also a good point to re-evaluate the addition of a performance pavilion on the northern slope of the park (see Figure 19). In the past there have been concerns over the effects of such a venture on the historic character of the Old Lock and Dam site. These should not be ignored, but since the Old Lock and Dam site is uniquely located near downtown and is already the site of numerous cultural events, the addition of a performance pavilion here is ideal and would contribute to the cultural and economic quality of life of the downtown area.

The board should evaluate adding increased lighting at the southern side of this park.



Figure 18: Park Fabric Concept. Green3 2012.

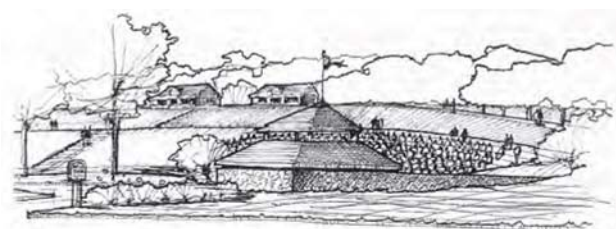


Figure 19: Amphitheater at Old Lock and Dam. Storrow Kinsella 2003.

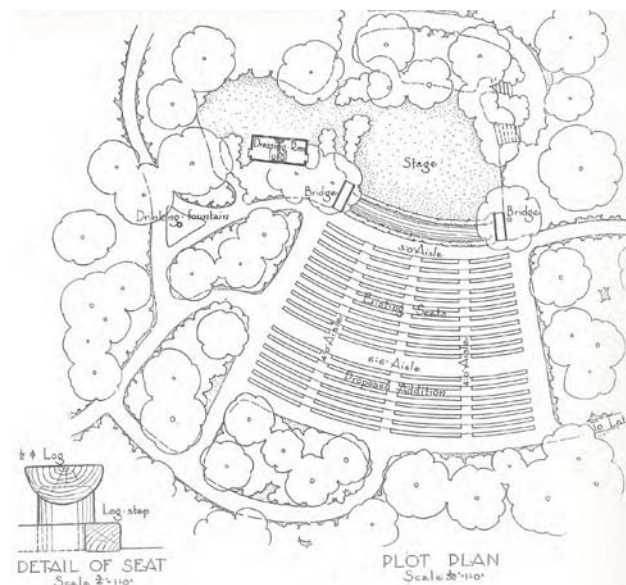


Figure 20: Example outdoor amphitheater design. NPS 1938.

Additional signage should be provided for the public restrooms.

- Indian Hill Overlook Park: This park's historic clearance and overlook, and their connection to the Rivertown Trail have been restored to great effect. The interpretive signage and historic elements on the site together with the site's natural beauty have contributed to creating a theme for the park.

The next step is to increase utilization of the park. Outside of the central clearing at the top of the hill and the path to it, there are no developed site uses. The slope down to IN 66 on the north side of the park could include pedestrian improvements. The pond in that location could be improved and provide a destination and node. Also, the natural slope could provide a space for a natural amphitheater (see Figure 20). On the southeastern edge of the site, there is an old, broken staircase that leads down into the woods and eventually to the Rivertown Trail. This area could support a small trail to complete the loop from Indian Hill to the Rivertown Trail.

- New Locks and Dam Park: The amenities at this park are excellent, but the landscaping on the site provides little cover or interest. The addition of large shade trees is highly recommended.
- Veterans Monument Park: The monument plaza is an excellent memorial space. The traffic context of the park could be mitigated with carefully selected landscape plantings.

This should remain a contemplative and passive space, but a path and picnic table on the remainder of the site behind the memorial would increase utilization and provide a community resource.

- Kiwanis Park: The Parks Board no longer manages Kiwanis Park. The fence at Kiwanis Park is out of context in the residential area, however, and the gravel lot is a dust and visual nuisance. The Parks Board should consider working with the Kiwanis and Warrick County School Corporation to remedy these items. Tree planting at the site would be a great improvement and a public good as well.

One improvement relating to Kiwanis Park does not rely on who manages the park. First and/or

Third Street should be evaluated as an East-West pedestrian way through the town. This would increase connectivity. As part of this improvement, the Parks Board should ensure that the nearby Senior Center has a fully accessible route to Kiwanis Park.

- AMAX Fields: The Parks Board no longer manages AMAX Fields, however tree planting at the site should be encouraged, as this is an inexpensive and needed improvement that will impact that site beyond the terms of the current lease.

Performance Venue - A performance pavilion would assist with the cultural events that the parks currently host, and could potentially attract additional performances and host current and new community arts groups. This would provide recreational value to all users, including identified special-needs populations: teens, seniors, and people with disabilities.

As noted in the two previous Master Plans, the ideal location for this is the Old Lock and Dam Park. The Old Lock and Dam Park currently hosts several cultural events, including events needing performance space. The Old Lock and Dam's proximity to downtown is a huge asset in this regard. At the same time, the Old Lock and Dam Park's natural setting would make a perfect performance venue location.

Dog Park - The construction of a Dog Park is the most controversial improvement considered in this planning process. A number of advocates spoke for the provision of this resource at the focus groups. In the community recreational demand survey, the creation of a Dog Park was the #2 free-response dream listed only behind extension of the trail. The creation of a Dog Park was also the #3 free-response park facility addition. Several people listed dogs and dog owners as an underserved population. Yet, respondents on average were less positive about adding a Dog Park than about any other potential improvement.

Clearly, there is a passionate group of potential users for whom a dog park is a major priority, and then there are many residents who do not feel that it is worthwhile.

Given the fiscal challenges faced by the Parks Board and the controversial nature of the project, the best course of action would be to take advantage of the passion of the users who want a dog park built. Invite Dog Park enthusiasts to form a committee, let them investigate potential sites and improvement costs, and encourage them to raise

funds to make the project a reality. The Parks Board could provide guidance, administrative support, and potentially landholding and/or maintenance support. This would allow those who are passionate about this project to see it completed while the Parks Board minimizes controversy by not directly spearheading the initiative.

Cypress Creek Nature Preserve - There is an extensive wetland system and wooded area at the mouth of Cypress Creek at the Ohio River. The Parks Board is responsible for the conservation of natural resources for the Town of Newburgh, and the public input showed a high level of support for nature-related initiatives.

The Parks Board should research and explore the idea of working with another public agency, such as Boonville and/or Warrick County, to secure the conservation of this natural resource. The Bicentennial Nature Trust is a likely funding source for this initiative; this special grant program will fund projects for Indiana's Bicentennial in 2016. Due to this special opportunity and time constraint, a feasibility study and grant application should be completed in the near future.

Improve Public Communication - Public communication is always a challenge for public agencies. During the focus groups it was discovered that even heavy park users were often unaware of services offered. This trend was seen

and confirmed throughout the public input process. In other words, the usefulness of the park system to users can be improved by simply spreading awareness of new and relatively unknown resources. Examples of park resources needing publicity are the lockmaster cottage rentals, the existence of public restrooms along the Rivertown Trail, the existence of Phase 2 of the Rivertown Trail, and the recent renovations at Indian Hill Overlook Park. In the community recreational demand survey, respondents were asked to list their preferred methods of communication from the park, and the results are discussed in Section 3: Public Input. Fortunately, many of the popular methods are inexpensive. The Parks Board should do the following to improve public communication:

- Expand physical signage to increase awareness of often-missed park resources (e.g., public restroom locations on Rivertown Trail) and to provide directions/connectivity between major park resources (e.g., between Rivertown Trail, Community Park, and Indian Hill Overlook Park).
- Form or enhance a relationship with local papers to increase local paper coverage of park resources and programming.
- Establish a web presence that is directly updatable by the new programming entity where programming and park resources can be advertised online.

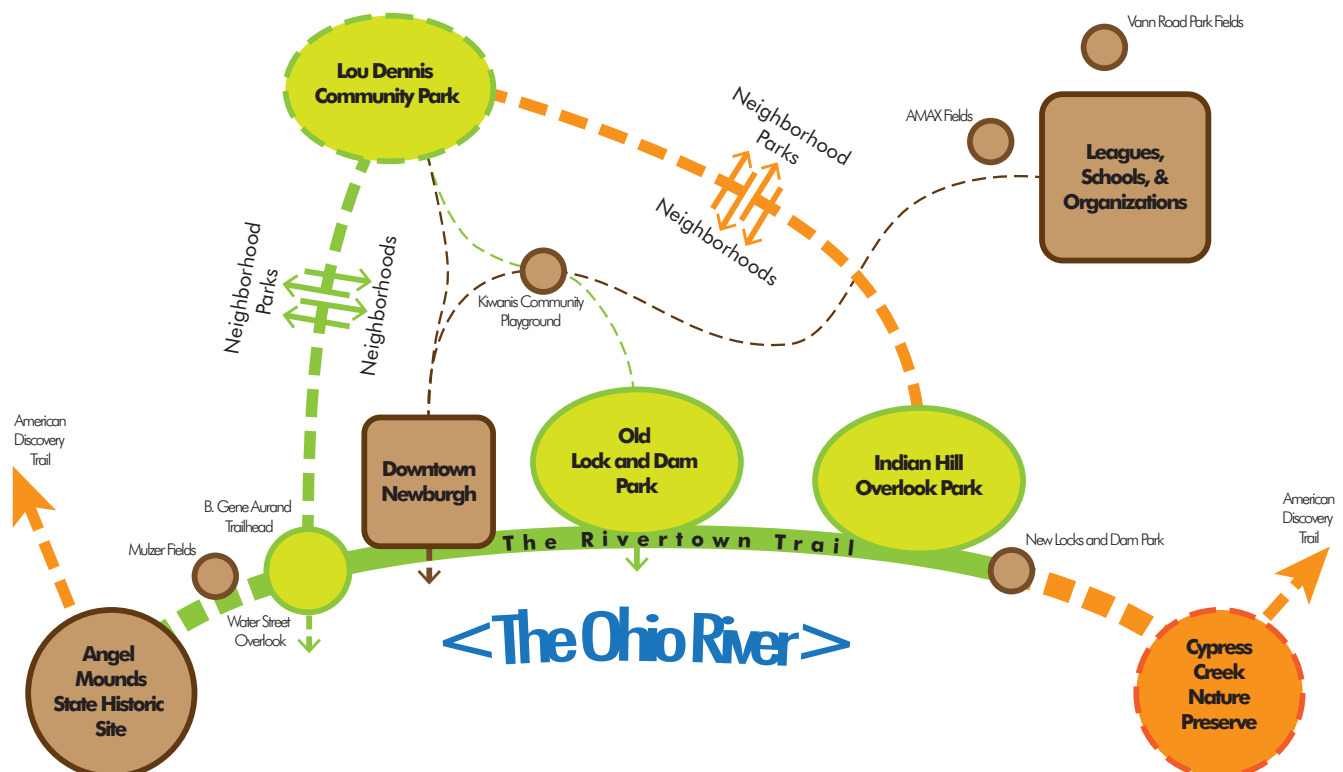


Figure 21: Conceptual Vision Plan. Green3 2012. The above conceptual plan shows some elements of the vision plan. See Appendix I.

- Establish an email contact list through which programming information and park updates can be easily shared.

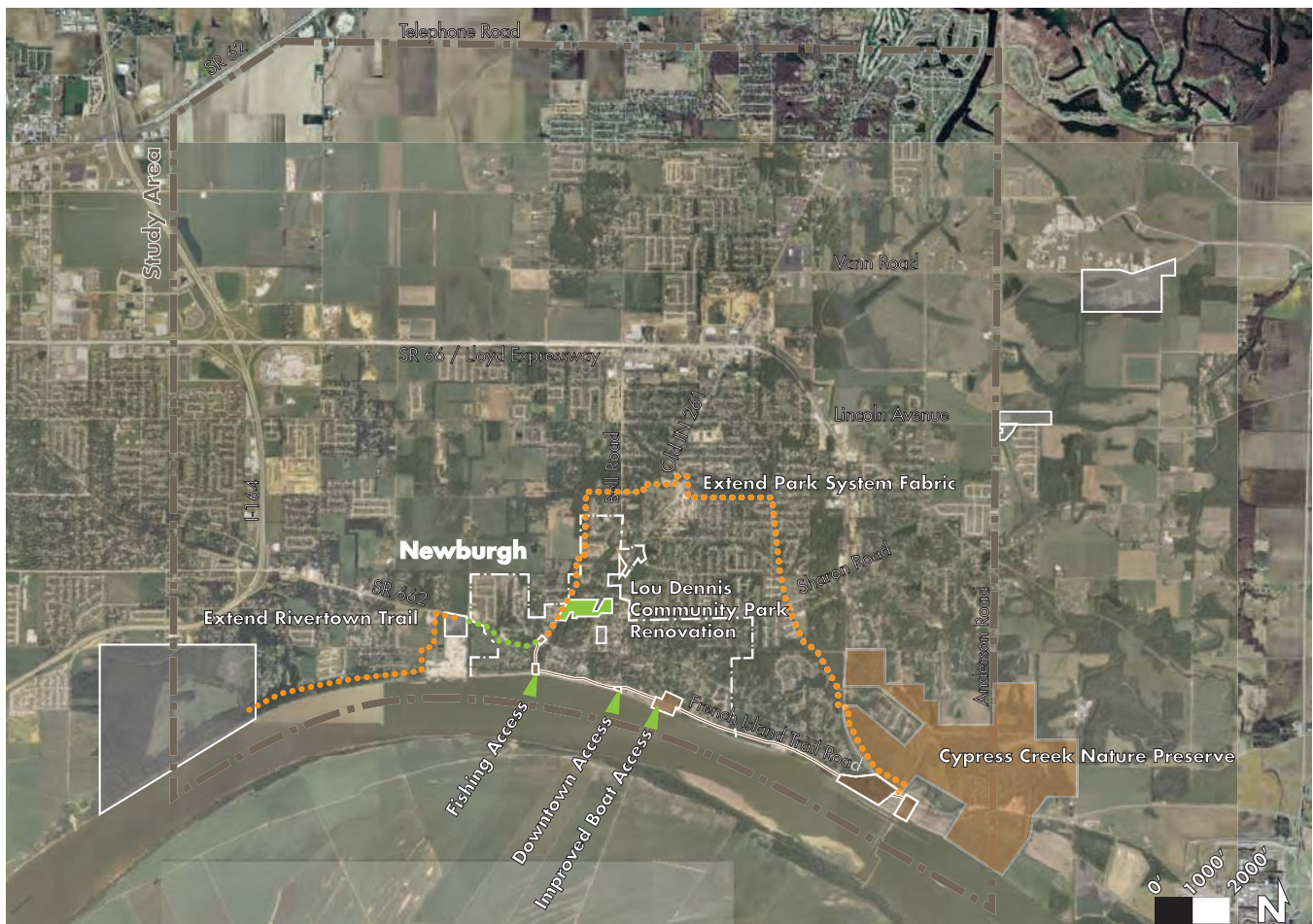
Seek Fiscal Efficiency Through Collaboration - One of strategies with the best potential for making efficient use of park resources is to collaborate with citizens and other agencies and organizations. Forms of collaboration include cost- and resource-sharing, volunteering, and grants and philanthropy.

- Create a relationship with other agencies to share programming information, team up to create new programming, and promote each other's programming.
- Create a citizen volunteering and philanthropy corps (booster organization/"Friends" group) to manage the regular reconditioning of park resources and the proactive seeking of donations.
- Create a Not-for-profit Newburgh Parks Foundation and seek funding for a parks endowment, including working with potential estate donors.

- Continue to actively seek out and obtain grant funding.
- Meet with the Warrick County School Corporation to discuss the potential for specific ways to share costs and resources for operations, programming, and facilities.
- Join the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association and consider sending the Town Manager and/or Parks Board members to training and conference events to seek new ideas and exchange experience with other communities' park professionals.

Increase Park Programming - There was broad support for additional programming and activities at the parks. The Parks Board should:

- Establish a new programming entity to collect all park-related programming information, evaluate and coordinate additional opportunities for needed or desired programming, and distribute/promote park programming to stakeholders and the public.



Map 10: Vision Plan. Green3 2012. The above plan shows some elements of the vision plan. See Appendix H.

- Evaluate preferred methods and locations for conducting programming. Existing resources that could be used for programs and activities include all parks, but especially the facilities at the Old Lock and Dam and the B. Gene Aurand Trailhead.
- The most support was received for programming related to the Ohio River, although activities, educational programming, and cultural programming were also supported.
- Lessons received some support, but not a lot. The Parks Board could facilitate the availability of private lessons, however, with a posting system and by providing facilities for use.

Create a Proactive Park Rejuvenation System - It was established through public input that park maintenance and beautification is a high priority for Newburgh residents. At the focus group, it was discussed that with the exception of the Lou Dennis Community Park, the maintenance of Newburgh Parks is generally good. The maintenance gap that currently exists in the Newburgh Park System is not regular maintenance, but the periodic refresh maintenance that requires the investment of time and money. Proactively planning for this type of maintenance on a schedule with dedicated manpower and resources is the way to achieve the #1 chosen dream of Park Beautification and Maintenance.

The Parks Board should establish systems, including funding, volunteer groups, and cooperative agreements, to regularly/proactively recondition park resources through landscaping replenishment, equipment repair and replacement, and facility renovation.

This should be accomplished using a variety of funding structures. These could include increased regular intake through budget and/or municipal taxes and fees, agreements with local organizations and agencies (Schools, Township, Leagues, Civic Organizations), and the creation of a volunteer corps to plan for and carry out this type of periodic refresh activity (i.e., quarterly cleanups and renovations that rotate among the parks).

Park Staff - The Parks Board would need to devote a significant amount of time in order to achieve the goals of Improving Public Communication, Collaboration and Fundraising, Increasing Park Programming, and Creating a Proactive Park Rejuvenation System. While maintenance needs can be pooled with Town resources, the above goals require a dedicated park staff member. These goals could potentially create enough value and savings to justify a full-time position, but meaningful progress could be made with a part-time position. Chief responsibilities of this position would include:

- Fundraising
- Park Programming Coordination/Development
- Volunteer Effort Coordination/Promotion
- Building Collaborative Relationships
- Maintaining Active Public Communications

Study Parks Board Structure - The Parks Board should extend the term of the Library Board appointment. If this does not alleviate the chronic lack of a Library Board appointment, then the Parks Board should consider investigating the possibility of replacing the Library Board appointment. Alternatively, or additionally, the Parks Board should consider expanding the Parks Board.

First, these solutions could be used to increase Parks Board manpower to at least the intended five people. Second, the addition of an appointment from a target organization could also assist with the goal of increasing collaboration that organization (e.g., Newburgh Elementary or Warrick Co. Schools, Historic Newburgh, Inc., Merchants Association, etc.).

Action Plan and Funding

section six

Contents:

- Park Budget and Funding
- Potential Funding Sources
- Action Plan

park budget and funding

The Newburgh Park Department budget for 2012 is \$173,570. This includes:

- \$91,770 for Personnel (53%)
- \$32,100 for Supplies (18%)
- \$49,700 for Services, Utilities, & Repairs (29%)
- \$0 for Capital Expenditures (0%)

The Park Department has no independent debt and does not pay any rents.

Recent Budget Changes - The 2012 Park Department total budget is approximately unchanged from 2011, but is a 22.5% increase over 2010. This budget increase is primarily due to increased staffing, but also included a significant supply budget increase and a services, utilities & repairs budget increase.

Budget Funding - The Park Department budget's funding comes from the following sources:

- 75% - Property Taxes
- 11% - User fees for pool entry and programming
- 8% - Old Lock and Dam-south facility rentals
- 5% - Old Lock and Dam-north facility rentals
- 1% - Community Park shelter rental

potential funding sources

The Newburgh Parks and Recreation Board is in partnership with others to improve the quality of life for the Town of Newburgh by preserving natural and open space resources and by improving its recreational and cultural programs. The Parks and Recreation Board plays a significant role in contributing toward the Town's economic development and tourism markets; the provision of enhanced leisure and recreational choices for its citizens is the ultimate goal.

There are many issues facing the Parks Board, and the priorities have been outlined in the Vision Plan. The improvements needed for the Community Park and Pool are a major expected shortfall and the provision of parks for the planning area, which greatly exceeds the taxable Town limits, is expected to be a major challenge. Indeed, the ongoing provision of park resources for the 27,943 park users in the planning area on a tax base of approximately 3,325 Town of Newburgh residents has been and will continue to be a major challenge.

Funding for plan recommendations will be primarily dependent upon local revenue, grants, bonds, and cost sharing through strategic partnerships. Other activities may be funded through the proposed Parks Foundation or private sponsorship, donations, and fundraising drives. Potential funding sources include:

General Revenue - The Town of Newburgh can utilize a variety of sources of funding from within the town budget. As noted, 75% of the Parks Board budget comes from property taxes. If Newburgh were to expand its limits, then parks would receive increased funding.

Bonds - The Town may wish to initiate a bond issue to pay for large improvements that cannot be covered using existing funds.

Private Donors/Organizations - The Department of Parks and Recreation should seek out private donations of land, funds, and amenities to aid in the maintenance and improvement of the park system. In addition, local organizations can become an integral part of the park system by organizing fundraisers, park maintenance outings, or by helping sponsor new park features.

Grants - Grants are available from the State of Indiana and the Federal Government, as well as from private organizations. Most parks and recreation grants are highly competitive and require the local political agency to provide matching funds to prove that they are capable of undertaking the project. Listed below are some relevant grants that are available for projects recommended in this report. The split between percentage of grant provided/percentage of required matching funds is illustrated in the parentheses:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (50/50): The Land and Water Conservation fund is a federal grant program that is administered at the state level. The program provides grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation/conservation areas and facilities. The National Park Service administers the federal portion, while the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) administers the state grants.
- Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust (50/50): For the state's bicentennial in 2016, Indiana has established funding for land acquisition and preservation. This grant is intended to preserve sensitive land and further state recreational goals including State Visionary Trails. Projects supported by the community foundation and multiple funding partners become much more competitive.
- Transportation Alternatives (80/20). The MAP-21 transportation bill continued the Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant program with slight alterations. It provides grant funding for alternative transportation modes, bike/pedestrian trails, and community design. These grants must be coordinated through the transportation

improvement program process of the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (Evansville MPO).

- Indiana Heritage Trust Recreational Trails Program (80/20): The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federally-funded, state administered (IDNR) grant program which is aimed at developing or maintaining motorized or non-motorized recreational trails.
- Indiana Waters Program (75/25): Indiana waters grants can be used by local park boards to acquire, develop, or renovate fishing and boating access facilities.
- Safe Routes to School (100): Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grants may be used to build pedestrian infrastructure between residential populations and schools.
- Community Development Block Grant (100): The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) offers planning grants of up to \$15,000 that may be used for large-scale planning efforts that meet the goals of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

action plan

Charts 7-9 lay out an action plan to achieve vision plan goals in the next five years. Chart 7 shows the action plan by year, while Charts 8-9 show the action plan by topic area. Costs are estimated and may vary substantially by the exact scope of work and site conditions. Some work may be able to be completed using existing town resources, and in these cases, the costs may be able to be reduced. The schedule shown is recommended and approximately indicative of priority level (earlier tasks are generally more important).

2013		
<i>Park</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
System	Hire Year-Round Park Staff Member	Budget Line Item
Coordination	See Vision Plan and Action Plan by Topic for breakdown	-
Operation. Improvements	See Vision Plan and Action Plan by Topic for breakdown	\$30-300
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Site layout plans to design development stage	\$10-15k
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Demolish and remove batting cage, reseed with grass	\$5-10k
Rivertown Trail	Phase 3 trail design and construction (to Mulzer Fields)	Funded
Rivertown Trail	Install mile markers	\$5-10k
Rivertown Trail	Provide improved trail markings on Water Street	\$5k
Rivertown Trail	Install signage indicating public restroom locations	\$5-10k
Cypress Creek Nat. Pres.	Coordinate broadly to discover partners	-
Cypress Creek Nat. Pres.	Feasibility study to determine project scope	\$8-12k
Cypress Creek Nat. Pres.	Apply for Bicentennial Nature Trust grant funding	\$3k
2013 Total		\$41-65k
2014		
<i>Park</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Rivertown Trail	Phase 3 trail design and construction (to Mulzer Fields)	Continued
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Update/renovate bath house	\$20-40k+
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Acquire open space parcel across Jefferson Street	Market Rate
River Access	Install fishing access facilities at Water St. Overlook	\$10k+
River Access	Design and install signage for Downtown Plaza staircase	\$8-12k
Park Fabric Expansion	Detailed r/w study to identify acquisition plan	\$25-50k
2014 Total		\$100k+ est.
2015		
<i>Park</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Install circulation system per renovation plan	\$30-50k+
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Update playground equipment per renovation plan	Varies
River Access	Scoping study for downtown/OL&D boat access imp.	\$2-5k
River Access	Plan to implement boat access improvements	-
Park Fabric Expansion	Detailed r/w study to identify acquisition plan	Continued
Old Lock and Dam Park	OL&D site and pavilion plans to design dev. stage	\$50k est.
Town Connectivity	Scoping study to install E-W sidewalks at 1st or 3rd St.	\$5-8k
Kiwanis Playground	Install accessible route from Senior Center to KCP	\$5k
2015 Total		\$100-150k est.
2016		
<i>Park</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Rivertown Trail	Phase 4 trail design and construction (to Angel Mounds)	\$1.5M est.
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Install landscaping per renovation plan	Varies
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Renovate pool and add spray park	\$250k+ est.
Veterans Monument	Install picnic table with path behind Veterans Monument	\$5k
2016 Total		\$1.5-2M est.
2017		
<i>Park</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Rivertown Trail	Phase 4 trail design and construction (to Angel Mounds)	Continued
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Renovate pool and add spray park	Continued
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Ravine trail survey, route plan, and preliminary estimate	\$30k est.
Indian Hill Overlook Park	Indian Hill site layout plans to design development stage	\$15-25k
2017 Total		\$45-65k est.
2017+		
<i>Park</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Ravine trail design and construction	\$250k+ est.
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Nature trail loop design and construction	\$100k+
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Pave all parking lots	\$80-100k
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Grading and turf improvements to soccer field	\$20-40k+
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Rehabilitate sand volleyball court with surround decking	\$5-10k
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Install picnic shelter	20-50k+ each
Lou Dennis Comm. Park	Improvements to acquired parcel per renovation plan	Varies
Total Presently Identified Projects for Future 2017+		\$525-600k+ est.

Chart 7: Action Plan by Year. Estimated costs and schedule; costs may vary and may be reduced using town resources and manpower.

# 1 Rivertown Trail Improvements		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2013	Install mile markers	\$5-10k
2013	Provide improved trail markings on Water Street	\$5k
2013	Install signage indicating public restroom locations	\$5-10k
2013-14	Phase 3 trail design and construction (to Mulzer Fields)	Funded
2016-17	Phase 4 trail design and construction (to Angel Mounds)	\$1.5M est.
Ongoing	Install additional lighting, benches, and amenities	Varies
(Unfunded) Subtotal		\$1.5M est.

# 2 Lou Dennis Community Park Renovation		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2013	Site layout plans to design development stage	\$10-15k
2013	Demolish and remove batting cage, reseed with grass	\$5-10k
2014	Update/renovate bath house	\$20-40k+
2014-15	Acquire open space parcel across Jefferson Street	Market Rate
2015	Install circulation system per renovation plan	\$30-50k+
2015	Update playground equipment per renovation plan	Varies
2016	Install landscaping per renovation plan	Varies
2016-17	Renovate pool and add spray park	\$250k+ est.
2017	Ravine trail survey, route plan, and preliminary estimate	\$30k est.
2017+	Ravine trail design and construction	\$250k+ est.
2017+	Nature trail loop design and construction	\$100k+
2017+	Pave all parking lots	\$80-100k
2017+	Grading and turf improvements to soccer field	\$20-40k+
2017+	Rehabilitate sand volleyball court with surround decking	\$5-10k
2017+	Install picnic shelter	20-50k+ each
2017+	Improvements to acquired parcel per renovation plan	Varies
Subtotal		\$1M-1.5M est.

# 3 Improve Access to Ohio River		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2014	Install fishing access facilities at Water St. Overlook	\$10k+
2014-15	Design and install signage for Downtown Plaza staircase	\$8-12k
2015	Scoping study for downtown/OL&D boat access imp.	\$2-5k
2015+	Plan to implement boat access improvements	Varies
Subtotal		\$20-27k+

# 4 Expand Park System Fabric		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2014-15	Detailed r/w study to identify acquisition plan	\$25-50k

# 5 System Improvements		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2015	OL&D site and pavilion plans to design dev. stage	\$50k est.
2015	Scoping study to install E-W sidewalks at 1st or 3rd St.	\$5-8k
2015	Install accessible route from Senior Center to KCP	\$5k
2016	Install picnic table with path behind Veterans Monument	\$5k
2017	Indian Hill site layout plans to design development stage	\$15-25k
Subtotal		\$80-93k est.

Chart 8: Action Plan by Topic. Estimated costs and schedule; costs may vary and may be reduced using town resources and manpower.

# 6 Cypress Creek Nature Preserve		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2013	Coordinate broadly to discover partners	-
2013	Feasibility study to determine project scope	\$8-12k
2013	Apply for Bicentennial Nature Trust grant funding	\$3k
Subtotal		\$11-15k

# 7 Add a Year-Round Park Staff Member		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2013	Hire a park staff member per Master Plan	\$15-35k annual

# 8 Improvements to Coordinate		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
2013	Coordinate with USACE to plant trees at NL&D Park	-
2013	Coordinate with PYSL and CYFL to plant trees at AMAX	-
2013	Coordinate with Kiwanis to pave KCP gravel parking lot	-
2013	Coordinate with Warrick Schools to remove fence at KCP	-
2013	Encourage and support dog park task force	-

# 9 Operational/Organization Tasks		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Communication		
2013	Establish a web presence that can be routinely updated	-
2013	Collect/solicit email addresses for distribution list	-
Programming		
2013	Evaluate existing programming resources/locations	-
2013	Establish cooperative programming relationships	-
2013	Establish an entity to collect/promote programming	-
2013	Create a posting system for lessons	-
Deep Maintenance		
2013	Establish routine deep maintenance schedule/scope	-
2013	Allocate needed funding for deep maintenance	-
2013	Organize park booster organization for deep maint.	-
Fundraising		
2013	Establish a not-for-profit Newburgh Parks Foundation	-
2013	Create a fundraising plan for a park endowment	-
Administrative		
2013	Join IPRA; utilize email list resources and events	\$30-300
2013	Discuss board appointments internally/with town council	-

Chart 9: Action Plan by Topic Continued. Estimated costs and schedule; costs may vary and may be reduced using town resources and manpower.

